

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



BIRD REPORT for 1991

Compiled by W. F. CURTIS



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Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

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Report for 1991 Edited by W. F. Curtis

During the course of the year, 295 species were reported in the county of which 140 were known to have bred. Additions to the County List recorded were; Soft-plumaged Petrel with two individuals at Flamborough on 6th September; Least Sandpiper at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea, on 28th and 29th July; Mugimaki Flycatcher at Sunk Island on the 16th and 17th November being the first record for the British Isles and possibly only the second for the Western Palearctic and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak which was present in a Bridlington garden from the 5th to 7th November. Of the rarer visitors, White-billed Diver; Little Shearwater; Black Stork; Black-winged Stilt; Franklin's Gull; Gull-billed and Lesser Crested Terns; Snowy Owl; Olive-backed Pipit; Pied Wheatear; Booted, Desert, Radde's, Dusky and Bonelli's Warblers; Isabelline Shrike; Rose-coloured Starling; Arctic Redpoll; Rustic and Little Buntings, all put in appearances.

Divers had an average year though a good passage of Red-throated was recorded in November off Flamborough without any day having exceedingly large numbers. Slightly more Black-throated were recorded than of late with five or six per day occasionally noted; likewise, Great Northern, though with only up to three daily. A Pied-billed Grebe at Gouthwaite Res. was considered acceptable by the YNU but unfortunately the BBRC begged to differ. Of the other grebes, Great Crested was reported in record numbers at Winterset Res., both during the breeding season and in winter. Black-necked and Slavonian were both reported in average numbers; the former regrettably not attempting to breed this year after doing so on several occasions during the past decade. Both Gannet and Fulmar would appear to be increasing in breeding numbers though no exact details were received from Bempton. Numbers of shearwaters were inauspicious as a whole whilst Manx was noted for its paucity particularly at Spurn and, to a lesser degree, at Flamborough, where the total recorded in July was less than that of a good day in most years. Totals of Storm Petrels were inflated by the use of tape lures proving that the birds "are out there" though only occasionally seen from shore given optimum conditions. Leach's Petrel was, however, only recorded in average numbers. The incidence of Cormorants believed to be of the Continental race again increased.

Bitterns continue to be scarce, being only recorded during the latter months whilst Grey Heron suffered a setback at one of the main breeding locations in the east when winter gales brought down several old trees with established nests; elsewhere numbers appear to be stable. Spoonbills were recorded in higher numbers than for some years however the scarcer members of this family were just that.

Whooper Swan bred for the first time, albeit a feral pair, with Barnacle Goose also rearing young (discounting the free flying birds at Flamingoland for which details are not available). Details of Mute Swan are incomplete with the absence of records from either Fairburn Ings or Hornsea Mere, both of which hold large moult herds. Similarly the account of Whooper Swan is

also incomplete, lacking details of the large wintering herd at Fairburn Ings. Generally geese had an uneventful year; both Canada and Grey Lag continue to increase; either by extension of range or consolidation of areas already colonised. Barnacle Goose status is obviously clouded by feral birds although several areas reported wild birds from colour-ringing schemes undertaken on the breeding grounds of Spitzbergen. Of the duck; Garganey had a good year with one pair definitely breeding whilst as many as seven may have done so; Teal also had a successful breeding season whilst other species had mixed success. Many species were reported in record numbers and, as such, 1991 must have been one of the best years ever. Of those in this category, Pintail had a truly exceptional year in that, as well as a new county record total, several locations reported record numbers. Eider were present in very high numbers, though on one day only, as were Common Scoter and Goldeneye. Goosanders appeared in very high numbers at several locations with a new county high at Hay-a-Park in December but this species, regrettably, remains scarce in the east. Teal and Wigeon were both present in record numbers along the Lower Derwent. Inland numbers of Scaup were also high whilst Ruddy Duck continues its relentless increase and range extension although the Aire valley remains the stronghold of this species.

Birds of prey again were well represented with Honey Buzzard probably breeding; Hen Harrier likewise; Buzzard, hopefully extending its toe-hold whilst Goshawk is considered to be on the increase despite persecution and/or disturbance in some areas. Peregrine goes from strength to strength and has as healthy a population as at any time for many years. Regrettably, Hobby, which also had a slender toe-hold in the county, slipped back this year though there is an outside possibility that one pair bred. Merlin had a successful year in the northwest with Kestrel apparently doing well – 42 at Scar house showing definite signs of yesteryear. Strangely, Marsh Harrier, which is increasing throughout eastern England, has not established itself in Yorkshire as a breeding bird although a pair built at Blacktoft – perhaps next year?

Several of the regularly reported waders occurred in high numbers with record counts of both Black-tailed Godwit and Curlew Sandpiper on the Humber. Very large counts of Green Sandpiper were reported from Tophill Low Res. during the early autumn, attracted to the habitat produced by the draining of the large reservoir. This species also continues to increase as a wintering bird. A Spotted Sandpiper was present for over a week near Wakefield; the second successive year this species has appeared in this area. The bird was apparently guarding young Common Sandpipers though whether the relationship was merely platonic, or otherwise, is open to conjecture. Several Avocets and Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded whilst Stone Curlew put in two appearances.

Over 1000 Long-tailed Skuas were recorded during the autumn, mainly at Flamborough though other coastal locations also reported record numbers. Several parties were seen to fly inland from Bridlington Bay though only four birds were actually recorded inland. Numbers of other skuas were barely average. Both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls continue to be recorded more frequently inland than along the coast; Sabine's was well represented but, with no records from Hornsea Mere, Little Gull was under-recorded with few large gatherings noted. The Yellow-legged race of the Herring Gull continues to be reported with increased frequency; considered to be a genuine increase and not entirely a case of increased observer awareness. Little Terns were present in good numbers in the Spurn/Kilnsea areas, but, despite all their efforts (and the efforts of many voluntary and full-time wardens), had a disastrous breeding season. The larger colony at Kilnsea was first predated by crows; the second laying abandoned owing to adverse weather and the third attempt predated by a Merlin whilst the smaller Spurn colony suffered from both Merlin and Fox predation. A large passage of Little Auks occurred during mid October in association with one of the periods of heavy duck passage whilst numbers of the other auks appeared to be normal.

Turtle Dove numbers show a tendency to continue their decline with little passage noted. Barn Owl also continues to decline, particularly in the east, and still, regrettably, suffers as a road casualty owing to its predilection with hunting road side verges. Very early Swifts, Sand Martins and Swallows were reported though numbers of the last two were low. Short-toed Larks of one of the eastern races were reported from two locations; Richard's Pipits were quite well represented with three together at both Flamborough and Spurn whilst the first inland and winter record of Olive-backed Pipit occurred at Puffin Bog.

Large flocks of Waxwings were present at several locations during both winter periods; many

of those in the York area having been ringed near Aberdeen the previous November. A Nightingale of one of the eastern races was at Spurn in October, only the second such record for the British Isles, whilst a bird only seen briefly, also at Spurn, in the spring was considered by some observers to have been Thrush Nightingale. Individuals of both Redstart and Black Redstart, considered by plumage characteristics to be of eastern races, were reported from both Flamborough and Kilnsea.. The breeding population of Black Redstart in Sheffield would appear to have levelled out at five pairs with none reported elsewhere in the large conurbations of the West Riding. The larger thrushes were widespread in autumn without appearing in spectacular numbers.

Grasshopper Warbler numbers were varied with breeding being more widespread though few reported from Winterset, formerly a stronghold, and no records from Cowden Range, another stronghold. Savi's sang at Tophill Low Res. for a few days but remains very scarce in the county. Status of Reed and Sedge Warblers remain relatively unchanged though their use of oil-seed rape fields continues to increase. The incidence of wintering Blackcaps also continues to increase whilst the status of the other "common" warblers showed little or no change. The scarcer species were well represented whilst Red-breasted Flycatcher had a good autumn. Bearded Tit, along with several other species, was affected by the cold spell in February and, as a consequence, breeding numbers were a little lower than usual. Nuthatch was again reported from the Holderness coast whilst a Tree Creeper at Flamborough was considered to have been a Continental bird. Raven bred at one location and may have done so at a second and, like Buzzard, appears to be consolidating its tenuous position in the county. House Sparrow showed a definite decrease with few of the large flocks of former years being reported. In general, flocks of finches were not particularly widespread or large though Brambling was well represented as was Siskin which probably had a better year than for some time. Crossbills were widespread as a result of the large 1990 influx, remaining to breed in several areas whilst Parrot Crossbills were also reported, again a legacy from 1990. Hawfinch was hopefully under-reported at several regular and established locations but records from the Humber Bridge C.P. were interesting. Finally, and not too happily, Corn Bunting continues to decline, becoming quite scarce in many areas.

May I, on behalf of the Reports Committee, express gratitude to local recorders and the very many individuals throughout Yorkshire who have submitted their records to the YNU. As Editor, may I also extend my thanks for the assistance given by the VC Recorders in the compilation of this report.

Bill Curtis July 1993.

Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder, Report Editor or direct to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel if the observer so wishes. The system used by the panel for indicating geographic locations is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North" though, should the observer request omission of the county name, the panel will respect that wish and use the regional name only.

A full list of species considered by the panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: 102-103. Species that are known to have bred or to have attempted to breed in the county in recent years for which the panel requests data are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe	Hobby
Little Bittern	Quail
Pintail	Corncrake
Garganey	Ruff
Pochard	Black-tailed Godwit
Honey Buzzard	Little Gull
Marsh Harrier	Black Redstart
Montagu's Harrier	Fieldfare
Goshawk	Parrot Crossbill

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor or direct from the RBB Panel (Dr. M. A. Ogilvie), Glencairn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, PA49 7UN.

Photographs

The inclusion of photographs in recent YNU Ornithological Reports has been made possible owing entirely to donations made by Birdline Northeast. This year, due to a logistical problem within the YNU Records Committee, this has not been possible. Birdline Northeast have, however, made a donation towards the cover of this Report for which the Ornithological Committee of the YNU wish to express their gratitude.

It is fully intended that photographs be included in future Reports and anyone with suitable prints/slides of species taken in 1992 and willing to loan them for use in the next Report are requested to contact the Editor or any of the Vice-County Recorders.

Birdline Northeast

A bird information service for the North East Region which comprises the counties of Northumberland; Tyne and Wear; Durham; Cleveland; North, South and West Yorkshire; Humberside and Lincolnshire. The service provides news of all birds of interest occurring in the region, including summaries of movements, concentrations and arrivals as well as presence of rarities and sub-rarities in the area.

For further information contact: John McLoughlin, 8 Harrison Grove, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4QJ. Tel: 0423 881630.

Classified List

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee and, unless otherwise specified, found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers. Where applicable, records have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC) unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Recorded in all months from the coast with maxima during early months of 304 at Holmpton on 9th March; 92 at Barmston on 17th February; 85 on the 5th and 53 on 27th. Maxima at Spurn; Flamborough and Filey being low. Numbers during latter months also low excepting Flamborough where 1131 were recorded during 15 days of November with 158 on 21st; 187 there on 1st December. Peak at Spurn between 20th and 22nd September with 55 reported. 42 at Filey in December being the peak there.

Singles reported along the Humber at Sunk Island on 19th and 20th January; 23rd and 27th September; 19th and 24th October and 14th December. Two records from fresh water locations; one at Burton Riggs G.P. on 16th/17th April and one at Farnham G.P. from 3rd to 31st December.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

64 birds reported from Flamborough, mainly during the latter months, though 14 in January. 14 in October; 20 in November and nine during December; one or two birds being the daily norm but five on both 20th October and 15th November. Elsewhere, six in summer plumage off Tunstall on 25th September (EWC); three north at Scarborough on 23rd October. Two at Spurn on 20th October and two at Barmston on 22nd. Single birds occasionally reported from other coastal locations.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Recorded at Flamborough on five days in January with three on 16th; three days in February; four during May with one on 10th June and 16th July. During the latter months singles on six days in September; three in October plus two on 19th and five on 20th; three in November and three in December with three on the 22nd. Two at Scarborough on 9th November with two at Barmston on 20th October. Singles at Filey; Scarborough; Barmston; Primrose Valley; Holmpton and Spurn mainly during the latter months though one at Barmston on 25th; 29th May and 1st June with one at Spurn (same?) on last date.

Inland; immature at Castle Howard from 6th to 16th November (JP:RSS *et al*); first winter bird at Chelker Res. on 10th November with an adult briefly at Ingbirchworth on 11th December; another (or same?) at Fewston Res. from 11th December to 23rd (FAW:BH:JIM:JMc *et al*).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

Two adults north at Flamborough on 19th October (AG:PAL:MN:PJW *et al*). Still under consideration by BBRC.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

One, in winter plumage, at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th October (JEA) was rejected by BBRC.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Breeding: VC 61: Filey Dams, five juveniles; Pulfin Bog, two pairs against five last year and

eight pairs along the Lower Derwent. VC 62: Single pairs at Ampleforth; Brandsby and Newburgh. VC 63: bred, or attempted to breed, at 27 locations where about 79 pairs reared some 143 young. 37 pairs bred in VC 64 though success rate low whilst in VC 65, two pairs at Nosterfield and Bolton-on-Swale with one each at Scorton Quarry; Pallet Hill; Kirkby Fleetham; Forcett Park and Stapleton.

Few large gatherings reported from VC 61 with up to 15 at Pulfen Bog in October and 13 at Tophill Low Res. during January. In VC 62, Hackness reported a maximum of seven; the highest count for that VC whilst in VC 63; 29 at Broomhill Ings on 9th February with 47 there on 8th December. Mickletown Ings, VC 64, recorded 29 on 27th August with Nosterfield, VC 65, having 22 on 22nd September. Few recorded along the coast with Spurn reporting a further decline.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

In VC 61; two pairs bred at Pulfen Bog with one each at Catfoss and Foggathorpe (considered to be under-recorded). Up to six pairs at Castle Howard, VC 62, though only two bred rearing three young. Single pairs at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough; Ampleforth; Wiganthorpe; Sand Hutton and North Howden. Bred at 28 locations in VC 63 with 78 pairs present of which 59 reared at least 93 young. Winterset Res. reported record numbers with 28 pairs producing 19 broods totalling 40 young. 27 pairs in VC 64 but owing to falling water levels at many locations a total of only 50 young were reared. Ten pairs attempted to breed in VC 65 at eight locations of which six were successful.

Very large concentrations outwith the breeding season at Winterset Res. with 89 on 13th January and 85 on 1st October. Nearby Pugneys' C.P. had 65 on 30th January; 101 on 9th February (the highest count ever on an inland water in Yorkshire) but only 42 the following day when much of the surface was closed by ice. Other locations reported lower than usual numbers, mainly ten to 17 birds. Maxima in VC 64 were 27 at Swillington Ings on 15th January with 44 on 10th February.

The wintering flock off Bridlington/Barmston saw peaks of 51 on 16th February; 65 the following day and 86 on 2nd March with 73 on the 9th; up to 18 in Filey Bay during February.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Invariably most records were coastal with singles at Flamborough on 2nd; 10th and 16th January; 10th July; 19th August; on four days in September; three in October; four in November and three at the end of December. Two reported on 1st September; 6th and 24th November. At Barmston, singles on 18th February; 5th May; 11th September with two on 29th September. One in Filey Bay on 25th January; 29th September and two flying north there on 20th October.

Inland, juvenile at Tophill Low Res. from 9th October to 8th November; two from 17th October to 4th November and three on 5th November. Two adults at Swillington Ings on 20th October.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Two on the Humber at Spurn on 10th October (MB) otherwise all records concerned single birds; at Scarborough Harbour from 22nd to 27th January; Filey Bay on 1st January and 11th February; Flamborough on 10th January; 20th and 28th October; 6th November; Barmston on 24th February and Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea from 17th February to 12th April. Fresh water records came from Hornsea Mere on 2nd February; Swillington Ings on 20th January and 14th February when another was at Farnham G.P., remaining for several days.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

VC 61: one at Brandesburton G.P. on 5th January; adult at Pulfen Bog from 7th to 9th July; adult at Tophill Low Res. from 27th July to 8th September being joined by a juvenile on 9th/10th August. One on the Lower Derwent on 3rd April. Two on the sea at Wilsthorpe on 13th September (SCM). In VC 62; one at Scarborough on 5th December whilst in VC 63, singles at Winterset Res. on 15th April; Southfield Res. on 11th April and 23rd September; Rother Valley C.P. on 4th, 6th and 11th August and Thrybergh C.P. on 24th November. One record from VC 64, at Fairburn Ings on 25th March.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

No comments received concerning coastal breeding numbers or status. Inland, seven pairs present at Stoupe Brow Quarry (VC 62) on 13th July whilst two pairs occupied ledges at Sutton Bank during June/July without any inclination of breeding.

Recorded at Flamborough during all months with daily peaks of 3530 on 5th May and 5100 on 29th September. Smaller numbers reported from other coastal locations though with occasional periods of intense passage; 300 per hour at Barmston on 17th; 740 north in one hour on the 19th April 500 in one hour on 29th September. Maximum at Spurn was 254 north on 1st June. Recorded along the Humber at Sunk Island between mid March and early September, invariably one to four birds but eight on 15th June. Singles passed west along the Ouse at Blacktoft Sands on 1st and 16th June, the former no doubt the bird seen at Southfield Res. also on the 1st; one at Eccup Res. on the 15th.

'Blue' phase birds reported from Filey on four days whilst one occupied a ledge at Flamborough from April until June and may have bred. Seen at this location throughout the year with 23 during May and peak of 13 on 1st June.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

One north off Flamborough at 1140 on 6th September whilst what was considered a different bird was present from 1405 to 1413. (PAL:JMc *et al*). The first records for Yorkshire. Still under consideration by BBRC.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Singles north at Barmston on 6th August (PP) and at Flamborough on 7th; 12th; 15th; 18th and 30th September (PAL:JCL:RJW:MN:JMc *et al*).

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

An unseasonable bird at Flamborough on 15th February (PAL) with one on both 8th August (PAL) and 14th September (JMC:MN *et al*) whilst two north there on 19th October.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

First of the year at Flamborough on 23rd May then 14th July and at Filey on the 18th. An average year, most records coming in September with 761 on 21 days at Flamborough; peaks being 295 on 6th; 150 on 7th and 107 on 12th. These numbers reflected, albeit much reduced, at other coastal locations. On 6th September; 40 north at Spurn; 47 north at Filey and 20 north at Scarborough. The only other records of ten or more coming from Scarborough with 15 on 4th September; 16 on 8th and ten on 29th. One to four birds occasionally reported from Hornsea and Barmston. The last was at Flamborough on 5th November.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

'Probably the worst year on record' (Spurn) and generally a poor year elsewhere. Reported along the coast from early May to mid October excepting two very late birds at Flamborough on 24th December where July saw peak numbers with 674 being counted on 29 days. Maxima being 114 on 13th; 112 on 14th and 107 on 21st. Peaks in other months being 31 in May; 75 in June and 67 in September. 17 flew north at Scarborough on 4th September with up to 11 at Barmston during that month and 11 south at Tunstall on 25th.

The only inland record concerned one being devoured by a Peregrine at Wheldrake Ings on 6th October.

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

Singles at Flamborough on 23rd May and on four days during August. Two north there on the 18th also being recorded at Filey. During September, three at Flamborough on the 7th with singles on the 12th; 26th and 28th; 18th/19th October and 5th November.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

One north at Flamborough on 11th September (AG:MN *et al*)
Addition to the 1979 Report:

One at Flamborough on 30th September (PAL:Miss IS).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Singles at Barmston on 10th April (PP); Spurn on 7th May (KC:PS:AJ) and 19th October (MGN) and Flamborough on 29th September (PAL *et al.*).

The increasing use of tape lures resulted in 134 being ringed at Flamborough; 122 in July and 12 in August with 31 on 6th July whilst at Filey 58 were ringed, 37 of which on 30th July (a county record). Five ringed at Scalby Mills on 3rd August.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

One attracted by a tape lure at Flamborough on 27th July, whilst off-shore there four on 11th September with two on the 13th. Singles at Filey on 6th and 29th September; Spurn on 7th; 11th and 30th September. Two north at Skipsea on 21st September with two at Spurn on 28th and seven on 29th.

One west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 30th September (JW). Inland, singles at Broomhill Ings on 6th July (AA *et al.*) and Denaby Ings on 12th September (TF *et al.*).

Omission from the 1990 Report:

One at Winterset REs. from 0800 until dusk, with another for about two hours at midday, on 8th September (JMT:PS:IB). One at Denaby Ings on 20th December (TF).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

No indications of numbers breeding at Bemptom received. Abundant at Flamborough with peak counts of 1710 on 4th May; 2620 on 5th then 1900 on 26th and 2500 on 1st June. 11566 counted during September with maxima of 3200 on both 6th and 7th. Nowhere else recorded numbers of this magnitude; Spurn having 180 north on the two days of 4th/5th May; 326 north between 6th and 8th September with the highest daily count of 178 on 28th. Up to 100 occasionally off Hornsea whilst maximum at Barmston was 200 per hour on 2nd September. Numbers at Filey indicated limited observations rather than status; the peak count being 150, in September, whilst the species was not recorded in either June or July.

Regular at Sunk Island and occasionally as far upstream as the bridge with one occurrence of three over the Ouse at Blacktoft Sands, on 29th September. The largest daily totals at Sunk Island being 21 on 21st September; 98 west (35 returning east later) on 29th with seven east on 1st June.

Addition to the 1990 Report. Five east over Clayton, Bradford on 31st July.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

No comments received on breeding status. Maxima along the coast were during October when Flamborough recorded 1007 as the monthly total with 130 on the 5th and 126 on 13th. Other monthly maxima there were 37 on 4th May; 72 on 26th August; 5 on 22nd September and 35 on 24th November. Filey reported 57 on 20th October as maximum whilst Barmston had 55 on the same date when 101 passed south or southeast at Spurn.

Reported during every month at Sunk Island with maxima of ten west on 6th April; 18 west on 2nd June and 27 west on 20th October. Further up river; ten in Hull Docks on 20th February whilst up to four occasionally roosted at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. 21 at Blacktoft Sands on 1st March; up to 11 in February; 12 in April; 11 in June; 13 in October and 15 during December.

Inland, in VC 61, Tophill Low Res. had monthly maxima of 21 during February; 22 in May and 36 in October. Nearby Pulfin Bog, up to 12 in January; 15 in February; with 17 on 20th October and 21 on 24th November. No records from Hornsea Mere.

One to five occasionally at over 30 locations in VC 63 with ten at Southfield Res. on 1st March; 11 on 19th November and 14 on 24th December. 12 at Poppleton, VC 62, on 17th February whilst in VC 64 numbers continue to increase. Almost daily at Swillington Ings with peaks of 12 on 17th February; 16 on 9th May; 17 on 9th November and 25+ on 14th December. Up to 12 at Farnham G.P. during March. Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, reported birds during every month with 31 on 20th January; 43 on 1st March; 32 on 25th October; 50 on 10th November and 52 on 14th December (record count here). Also regular at Thornton Steward Res. with 14 on 14th December.

Birds considered to be of the Continental race *P.c.sinensis* are increasingly reported. Tophill Low Res. had four on 20th March; two to four during April and four to six during early May.

Seven at Bolton-on-Swale on 3rd March; four at Barmston on 17th with three at Blacktoft Sands on 18th March and two at Castle Howard on 13th; 24th and 27th April. Singles at Thornton Steward Res.; Leighton Res.; Swillington Ings and a further three locations in VC 61.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

No reports received concerning breeding numbers or status. Fairly widespread along the coast from Flamborough northwards, though in lesser numbers than last year; peak counts at Flamborough being 473 on 20th January; 145 on 22nd September with 313 on 20th October; 176 on 3rd November and up to 150 during December. 60 in Filey Bay on 26th January; 100 on 27th October; 52 north off Scarborough on 30th September. South of Flamborough numbers were small (usually below 20).

One at Sunk Island on 26th January whilst further inland, one frequented the R. Aire near Castleford from late February until late March being seen also at Fairburn Ings on 2nd March. One at Southfield Res. from 19th to 26th March with another on at least nine day between 30th October and 13th December. Three at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd October.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Singles, at Filey Dams on 11th November departing northeast; flying northwards over Hull following the R. Hull, on 16th November; Pugneys' C.P. from 1st January to 14th March and possibly the same bird from 1st to 31st December; Elland G.P. from 23rd December to years' end; Blacktoft Sands from 25th to 29th December; Potteric Carr from 28th December to years' end and at Hay-a-Park on 12th December.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Addition to the 1990 Report: Singles at Denaby Ings from 16th June to 5th August (KAD:TF), and north at Wintersetts on 25th July (GJS *et al*).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One at Blacktoft Sands during the afternoon and evening of 26th May (ND:AG:CW).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

In VC 61; only 11 nests at Scampston where a gale in December 1990 brought down several trees with old established nests. In VC 62; five nests at Mowthorpe; five in Sleightholmedale and 27 at Crathorne (near Hutton Rudby). In VC 63; 24 pairs reared 48 young at Bretton Park; nine young reared at Wentworth from five or six nests with three successful nests at Bradfield and breeding suspected at another location. Bred at five locations in VC 64 with about 20, nests at both Askwith and Dob Park; 11 at Bishop Monkton; seven at North Stainley and four at Dacre. 11 nests estimated to have been occupied at Kirkby Fleetham, in VC 65.

Away from the breeding locations, ten at Tophill Low Res. on 29th June with seven to nine regularly reported between July and September. Nine at Sunk Island on 26th September included five arriving at great height from the east; these five also being seen earlier coming in off the sea at Spurn. In VC 63; 30 at Broomhill Ings during September with 20 at Thorpe Marsh in July whilst in VC 64; 27 at Swillington Ings on both 27th July and 14th September; 20 at Lindley Wood Res. on 9th September.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One flew low over Wintersetts Res. on 24th February (PM) whilst another flew in off the sea at Barmston on 3rd June (PP).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

One at Dalby on 9th June (JGS:DGS). The fifth record for Yorkshire.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

An adult at Knotford Nook on 6th March (PJC); possibly the same bird flying south over Farnham G.P. on the 8th (AMGK). An adult on the Lower Derwent on 12th/13th (ML:TED) and an adult (colour ringed) at Tophill Low Res. on the 15th was seen to depart to the northeast

(DBC:AG). This bird had been ringed as a nestling in the Netherlands during either 1984 or 1985. One off the sea at Bempton on 18th March (TDC). One at Blacktoft Sands from 16th to 22nd June with another off the sea at Bempton on the 25th (DO'H).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

In VC 61; seven pairs reared 31 young along the Lower Derwent; two pairs, a total of five young at Tophill Low Res. and single pairs six young at Riccall; six young on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge and three young at Scampston. Two pairs (no other details) at Pulfin Bog. Considered to be under recorded in this VC. Bred successfully in Peasholme Park, Scarborough and Brompton Pond whilst six pairs were present at Pond Head, Yearsley.

18 breeding pairs in VC 63 of which 14 reared 49 young; 15 pairs reared 50 young in VC 64 (no details from Fairburn Ings) whilst, in VC 65, five pairs reared ten young.

With no records from the two main moulting areas, Hornsea Mere and Fairburn Ings, concentrations reported were low; maxima being 39 on the Lower Derwent during May; 31 at Swillington Ings on 31st October; 38 at Mickletown Ings on 13th February; 43 at Pugneys' C.P. on 17th February and 40 in the Rother Valley C.P. during November. Two colour ringed birds from Northumberland were noted; one at Wheldrake Ings then Fairburn Ings; the other at Newton-on-Ouse.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*

Numbers along the Lower Derwent were again very low with maxima during the early months of 30 in January; 33 in February and 40 in March. The first returning bird appeared on 18th October with 25 by the end of that month but only six during November and eight in December. One present during January had been ringed at Slimbridge on 9th December 1969. Elsewhere in this VC; four at Sigglesthorpe for most of January and nine at Faxfleet on 24th March were the only records during the early months. Returning birds noted in October with four at Flamborough; five at Filey and eight over the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on the 26th with 12 there and six at Pulfin Bog on the 27th; 17 southwest over the Refuge on 29th. Fewer in November with one to four occasionally at Filey; Spurn; Flamborough and Tophill Low Res. Ten over the Refuge on 4th and three at Spurn on 7th December were the only records that month.

Very scarce in VC 62; five near Cayton Bay on 28th November the only record. In VC 63, reported in March at Pugneys' C.P. with 31 to east on 9th on which date 23 departed eastwards at Winterset Res. 43 at Langsett Res. on 12th/13th left in the evening of the latter date and were no doubt the same birds seen over Broomhill Ings (though counted there as 42) that same evening. Eight west at Blacktoft Sands on 26th October whilst 36 flew west at Pugneys' C.P. the following day. Up to 11 at Broomhill Ings during December.

Few in VC 64 with five at Swillington Ings on 13th January and eight there on 15th; 13 over Ripon Canal on 25th March. During the latter months; nine at Gouthwaite Res. on 8th October the largest party reported. Scarcer in VC 65 than in recent years; five at Bolton-on-Swale on 9th November; eight at Great Langton on 12th November and one at Noterfield on 15th/16th December.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

A pair of feral birds bred at Studley rearing three young.

Monthly maxima along the Lower Derwent of 48 in January; 46 in February; 70 in March and 16 during April with five on the 25th being the last. Few elsewhere in VC 61 during this period until 30 at Faxfleet on 24th March then up to 21 at Tophill Low Res. from 1st to 5th April whilst 13 flew northwest over Barmston on the 21st. The first returning birds were ten over Sunk Island on 6th October. The Lower Derwent herd reached 27 in November increasing to 31 during December. 12 to the south at Tophill Low Res. on 28th December the only other record of double figures.

Very few in VC 62 with 11 over York on 22nd October the maximum.

In VC 63, 14 regularly at Broomhill Ings from 1st January to 28th March with an adult present from 10th to 25th May. 19 at Warley Moor Res. on 27th March. Five had returned to Broomhill Ings by 18th October increasing to 18 the following day then 20 regularly to 23rd December

when 30 were present with 25 to the years' end, but additionally 13 south there on the 29th. 25 northwest over Thorpe Marsh on 27th October with 18 west at Blacktoft Sands on 29th. Up to 18 occasionally at Edderthorpe Flash from mid October (Broomhill birds?)

Recorded from ten locations in VC 64 during the early months, usually up to six birds though in the Byram/Birkin/Beal area, used as a feeding location by the Fairburn Ings herd, maxima of 77 on 13th January; 101 on 17th February and 17 on 17th March, were reported. Recorded from 19th October, during the latter months, with ten at Swillington Ings in both November and December whilst 43 were in the Birkin/Beal area on 30th November.

The maxima reported from the Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton area of VC 65 were 23 on 1st January; 22 from 17th February to 20th March; 35 from 24th November to 16th December thereafter 28 present. 18 north over Dishforth on 17th February.

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

Two at Barmston on 5th January. One at Winterset Res. (considered to be *A.f.rossicus*) from 22nd to 27th was seen at nearby Pugneys' C.P. on the 27th and again at Winterset from 30th to 1st February. An injured bird at Hay-a-Park G.P. present from 24th February being captured and taken into care on 10th March. One at Hempholme on 3rd March with one on the Lower Derwent on 13th; 15th March and 4th April.

During the latter months, four at Blacktoft Sands on 5th December; one, considered to be of the race *A.f.rossicus*, at Tophill Low Res. from 8th to 29th December, no doubt the bird at nearby Pulfen bog on both 24th and 27th. Two, considered to be nominate *A.f.fabalis*, at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 19th December. One at Great Langton from 28th December to years' end.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The highest count on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge was 1165 on 16th December otherwise a poor year there for this species.

Much movement inland on 4th January with 200+ at Blackmoorfoot Res.; 93 at Elland G.P.; 150 at Penistone; 300 at Broomhill Ings and 200 at Hoyland – all moving west except northwards at Hoyland. 425 northwest over Strines on 13th whilst 250 flew onto the river at Blacktoft Sands. 200 north at Riccall on 28th January. 350 over Becketts' Park, Leeds on 2nd February and much north or northwesterly passage being reported on the 25th with 230 at Blacktoft Sands; 120 at Bretton Park; 300 over Bradford, 100 over Potteric Carr; 220 at Broomhill Ings and 500 over Wentworth. 157 over Nosterfield on 27th. In March; 160 over Broomhill Ings and 150 over Worsbrough on the 2nd; 250 east at Skirlaugh on 5th; 200 west at Thorpe Marsh on 8th; 193 over Swillington Ings on 16th on which date 120 flew northwest at Winterset Res. and 117 northwest at Brodsworth. 200 over Harrogate on the 27th.

The first returning birds were two on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 10th September with three on 17th; 55 at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd. 73 flew in off the sea at Spurn on 4th October, a day of much movement inland when 250 passed east over Edderthorpe; 300 east over Carlton Marsh; 251 east over Strines with 110 southeast and 150 east over Broomhill Ings. 250 southeast over Strines on 6th and 200 northwest over Royd Moor Res. on 12th whilst 250 flew northeast at Hutton Rudby on 14th. In November, 250 southeast over Stanage Edge on the 10th with 200-300 east at Thrybergh C.P. on 26th when 180 passed east at Spurn. The following day, 200 seen over Westwick with 160 over Glasshouses. 140 southeast at Spurn on 3rd December; 198 northwest over Broomhill Ings on 22nd with 110 northwest at Balby the same day. Smaller skeins of 50 to 100 birds seen frequently at many locations.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Ten at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd and 10th February with one or two occasionally at Flamborough and Stone Creek. One at Castle Howard on 16th March and 5th April whilst further inland, 13 flew west at Blacktoft Sands on the 5th; two at Went Ings the following day. Two adults and an immature frequented the area between Farnham G.P. and Nosterfield G.P. from 21st January to 10th March.

Birds considered to be of the Greenland race *A.a.flavirostris*, at Barmston on 25th; 27th October with two on the 29th. Two at Bolton-on-Swale from 1st January (present at Great

Langton on 31st December 1990) to 8th April and 26th December to years' end. 15 flew into Nosterfield on 17th October (SG).

Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*

Continues to increase and spread in VC 61 though records from several important areas were not forthcoming. Breeding was confirmed at Pulfen Bog; Barmston; Tophill Low Res.; Fordon; Skipwith Common and the Lower Derwent. Maxima in this VC being 500 at Tophill Low Res. during October; 750 over Atwick on 22nd September; 265 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during December; 120 near Driffild in December; 170 at Barmston in October and 250 along the Lower Derwent in November.

No breeding records from VC 62 where 477 was the peak count at Castle Howard on 8th November. Increasing in VC 63 with proven breeding at Thorpe Marsh; Potteric Carr and Blacktoft Sands. Maxima being 150 at Thorpe Marsh in November; up to 90 at Blacktoft Sands during the early months and 100 from August to the end of the year.

Also continues to increase in VC 64 where 15 pairs reared 51 young. The stronghold being the Harrogate area where the maxima were 240 at Farnham G.P. in January and 270 in November; 210 at Hay-a-Park in October and 340 at Staveley in October.

A dramatic increase both as a breeding and wintering species in VC 65 where a minimum of 25 pairs reared 120+ young. The largest concentration was in the Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton area with maxima of 656 on 30th January; 682 on 17th February; 470 on 25th October increasing to 765 on 26th December (highest count ever for VC 65). 176 at Stapleton on 2nd January whilst the peak at Nosterfield was 395 in September. A combined count of the main areas on 9th November gave a total of 1033 birds.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Four in off the sea at Scarborough on 23rd June. In VC 64; one to seven at Farnham/Hay-a-Park and Staveley during January; February; May and then from August to the years' end. Eight at Farnham in November. One to the west at Knotford Nook on 24th February.

Regularly at Nosterfield with a maximum of seven on 30th October whilst one was on the Lower Derwent on 18th; 20th October and 1st December.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

No breeding records from VC 61 excepting an estimated 25 pairs along the Lower Derwent with maxima in this VC being 131 at Filey Dams on 9th June; 120 at Primrose Valley Lake on 16th February and 480 on the Lower Derwent during January.

In VC 62, bred at Hackness. Maxima being 289 at Castle Howard in September with 112 at Sand Hutton on 20th November. About 40 pairs reared 150 young at 17 locations in VC 63 where peak counts were; Pugneys' C.P., 600 in November; 350 in the Rother Valley C.P. in September and December with 277 at Winterset Res. on 9th November.

Many pairs bred in VC 64 with an estimated 360 young being reared. Attempted to breed at Malham Tarn (first time). Peak counts being, 700 at Eccup Res. on 15th January; 570 at Harewood on 20th October; 500 at Farnham G.P. in February and 410 at Staveley in August.

One pair bred in VC 65. Maxima here were 566 at Nosterfield on 25th August with 280 at Thornton Steward Res. on 5th January and 178 at Leighton Res. on 8th December.

Small birds, considered to be of the race *B.c.minima* were at Castle Howard on 1st; 8th and 12th January; the Lower Derwent on 16th January; 12th/13th April. Two at Pulfen Bog on 14th April. The small dark bird first seen in 1990 and considered to be of the race *B.c.occidentalis* was at Pugneys' C.P. on 1st January.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

One pair reared two young at Bretton Park. One to ten birds considered to be of feral origin at many locations throughout the year.

On 30th September, 18 flew west at Blacktoft Sands and were undoubtedly the same 18 seen at Eccup Res. that same day. Also on 30th, four at Blackmoorfoot Res.; two of which carried colour rings, whilst what were likely the same four, at Cleasby that day (reported as carrying rings). Again, on 30th, 11 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. 17 passed Flamborough on 2nd

October with 24 west at Sunk Island and 20 at Eccup Res., three of which were colour ringed. A flock of 70 arrived on the Refuge on 4th October increasing to 84 by 21st, on which date 13 were at Barmston. The Refuge flock remained at 84 until 16th November then varied between 75 and 79 until 8th December decreasing then to 34 at the years' end; these birds being seen frequently at Blacktoft Sands (eight of these were noted to be colour ringed; the origin being thought to be Spitzbergen). Two known to be from Spitzbergen were shot on the Lower Derwent on 5th January being a female and off-spring; these two birds had been seen occasionally at Caerlaverock until early December.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Daily at Spurn until 26th May when 16 present; peak count being 211. The Birds of the Estuary Enquiry (BoEE) counts gave monthly maxima of 141 on 6th January; 230 on 3rd February; 163 on 24th March with 40 on 21st April and 70 on 19th May. First returning birds at Spurn on 4th and 7th September then daily from 27th with maximum of 270 on 30th November. The BoEE gave 520 on 15th December of which 400 were at Stone Creek (unusually far up the estuary) and 213 at Spurn. Indications at Spurn were of a successful breeding year with 51 first winter birds out of a total of 125 on 14th November. Away from Spurn, four arrived on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 1st September but not until October were many reported then 141 passed Flamborough on 14 days with 38 on 21st. 37 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 3rd November with 16 at Filey Brigg on 17th and 13 at Barmston on 19th.

Few records from VC 62 with 14 north at Scarborough on 1st February; two on 9th November and singles on four further days. One at Winterset Res., VC63, on 12th October and 18th November. Single birds in VC 64 at Farnham G.P. on 1st February and between 29th November and 21st December. Four west at Stockbridge on 3rd November whilst one at Givendale from 29th to 31st December.

Two birds of the race *B.b.hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent) were at Flamborough on 1st January and 17th February with one on 6th August; at Spurn, three on 22nd and two on 24th/25th February; one on 3rd March; four on 30th September and two on 29th December.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Two at Hay-a-Park on 7th April with three adults at Swillington Ings on 19th September. Singles at Masham G.P. on 5th January; Pugneys' C.P. on 3rd April; Bolton-on-Swale, 14th April; Elland G.P. from 12th April to 12th May; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th June and Pugneys' C.P. on 8th/9th and 21st December.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One at Brough on 11th August and 1st September, most likely the bird flying west at Sunk Island on 27th September; at Stone Creek on 28th; at Patrington Drain from 29th to 2nd October and there again on 13th (published with the escape proviso)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

The only breeding records received from VC 61 were of a single pair at Tophill Low Res. and 12 pairs along the Lower Derwent; the latter producing only three broods. Not recorded as breeding in VC 62 whilst in VC 63; ten pairs at Blacktoft Sands though overall success considered low; four in the Torne valley; two unsuccessful pairs at Thorpe Marsh; singles at Whiteholme Res.; Armthorpe and Carlton Marsh. Conversely, a very good year in VC 64; nine pairs at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds/Hall Ponds (Leeds), with seven rearing 47 young. Four pairs at Fairburn Ings rearing only two young in total. Two pairs at Nosterfield; VC 65, with one each at West Tanfield; Masham G.P. and Pallet Hill.

The BoEE counts gave 824 on 6th January; 1936 on 3rd February; 2243 on 24th March; 777 on 21st April; 1082 on 19th May; 3503 on 15th September; 3159 on 13th October; 1596 on 24th November and 1439 on 15th December. Additionally, 3020 at Sunk Island on 27th July. Easterly movement reported from Sunk Island in July/August with 91 on 20th July; 74 on 26th then 87 on 2nd August and 104 on 3rd. Similar movement noted at Spurn with 235 on 26th July. Maxima inland in VC 61 being 60 on the Lower Derwent in February and 35 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th April.

At Blacktoft Sands, up to 155 in March with 170 on 8th April then 150 in May. Westerly passage noted in autumn with 69 on 20th September; 48 on 21st and 46 on 18th October. Peak counts inland being 35 east at Winterset Res. on 16th July and 28 west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th October. Almost resident in the Swillington/Leventhorpe areas of VC 64 with maximum outwith the breeding season of 25 on 25th March. Up to 15 in May at Pallet Hill being additional to breeding birds.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

A pair at Castle Howard from 20th October to years' end whilst, in VC 63, single males at Potteric Carr on 11th February; Broomhill Ings on 10th April and Candy Farm on 12th May.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

No definite breeding records received though three pairs summered along the Derwent valley. This area held extremely large numbers with monthly maxima of 7000 in January; 5500 in February; 11,500 in March (highest count ever recorded in Yorkshire); 1500 in April; 200 during November and 3000 in December. Counts of the estuary gave 1569 on 6th January; 1192 on 3rd February; 1065 on 24th March; 3667 on 13th October; 2751 on 24th November and 2647 on 15th December; almost all these birds being on the Refuge where 3700 were present in late September; 4860 on 18th October; 5100 on 14th November and 3160 on 18th December. Elsewhere in VC 61, Tophill Low Res. held 1020 in January; 1100 in February with 1300 in March and November. 468 west at Sunk Island on 21st September; 403 on 22nd when 666 south at Flamborough and 1226 south at Spurn; 1024 west at Sunk Island on 20th October when 1100 flew west at Blacktoft. 623 west at Sunk Island on 23rd with 177 north at Scarborough that day. Other peak counts at Blacktoft were 2200 on 17th February (cold weather influx); 850 on 18th January and 930 on 15th December. Winterset Res.; the Rother Valley C.P. and Broomhill Ings, all VC 63, regularly held 200 to 250 with 310 at Broomhill Ings on 13th December.

The only locations in VC 64 to hold more than 100 were Swillington Ings; maximum of 372 on 27th October; Eccup Res. 141 on 29th December and Hay-a-Park with 150 from October onwards.

Large numbers as usual at Bolton-on-Swale with 1260 on 20th January; 1060 on 17th February; 1027 on 28th November and 1520 on 16th December (record for location). Up to 370 at Forcett Park throughout November/December with peaks at Thornton Steward Res. of 221 on 2nd February and 354 at Leyburn on 26th December.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

The highest counts in VC 61 came from Tophill Low Res. where maxima were; 24 in January; 29 in February; 23 in late April increasing to 36 by 13th June then 56 in September; 27 in October; 99 in November and 30 during December. Good numbers at Scampston with 35 on 12th January; 13 on 17th March then ten on 15th September; 55 on 13th October and 30 on 17th November. A poor breeding season along the Lower Derwent where only four pairs reared two broods; maxima here being 12 in January with 53 on 26th March.

In VC 63, bred at Blacktoft Sands (one pair); Wath Ings (one); Potteric Carr (six to eight) and Denaby Ings (three). Up to 30 at Potteric Carr during September/October and 24 in March/April. Broomhill Ings; Blacktoft Sands; Winterset Res. and Old Denaby occasionally held up to 15.

At Swillington Ings, VC 64, three pairs reared 29 young with one pair at Mickletown Ings. Continues to increase in this VC particularly along the Aire valley where Swillington Ings had 111 on 23rd September; 153 on 19th October and 60 on 30th November with Mickletown Ings reporting 73 on 8th November. Farnham G.P. having up to 17 in November and 22 in December (double previous maximum for Harrogate area). 11 at Eccup Res. during December was also a record for that location.

Teal *Anas crecca*

An excellent breeding year along the Lower Derwent where some 19 pairs were thought to have reared young; the only other definite breeding record from VC 61 being at Filey Dams where one pair raised five young. The Lower Derwent held very high numbers during the early months with maxima of 4650 in January; 5300 in February and 5700 in March (highest ever count for Yorkshire) but very few present during the latter months.

The BoEE gave 367 on 6th January; 731 on 3rd February; 940 on 15th September and 1430 on 13th October though peaks on the Refuge were 1320 in September; 1350 in October; 1400 in November with 1155 in December. 740 at Tophill Low Res. in September being the peak there. Coastal passage in autumn of 703 south at Spurn on 22nd September; 242 south at Barmston on 29th August with 225 north there on 20th October and 445 north at Flamborough on 22nd.

11 pairs bred at upland locations in VC 63 with 19 pairs at lowland ones. Broomhill Ings; Pugneys' C.P.; Potteric Carr; Rother Valley C.P.; Edderthorpe Flash; Blacktoft Sands; Thorpe Marsh and Thorne Moors all held up to 250 birds on occasions with peaks of 1100 on 29th October and 510 in September at Blacktoft; 517 in January and 555 on 8th December at Broomhill Ings; 374 at Edderthorpe on 27th October and 350 at Potteric Carr in November and December.

No breeding records received from VC 64. The maxima reported in this VC being 406 in January; 600 in September and 535 in November at Gouthwaite Res. whilst Swillington Ings reported 412 on 16th January and 274 on 19th November. Only Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, held large numbers with 449 on 13th January and 344 on 9th/10th November.

A male of the North American race *A.c.carolinensis* was present at Gouthwaite Res. from 2nd to 15 November (KM:MDR *et al.*).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Excepting Blacktoft Sands all areas appeared to have had a good breeding season. Bolton-on-Swale had a maximum of 1040 on 12th September otherwise nowhere outside of VC 61 held over 1000 birds. In VC 61, the Lower Derwent reported maxima of 3000 in January; 3250 in February and 2950 in March; Tophill Low Res.; 1000 during January; 1010 in October with 1700 in November and 1200 in December. 1810 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in September with 1500 in October. The BoEE counts (Goole to Spurn) totalled 2097 on 6th January; 2950 on 3rd February; 2539 on 13th October; 1416 on 24th November and 2098 on 15th December.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Up to 54 present during January along the Lower Derwent valley with 60 in February then 172 in March declining rapidly to 11 during early April. 25 were at floods along the Ribble on 10th March whilst 12 were at Bolton-on-Swale on 17th February. 13 at Cherry Cobb and 13 at Patrington Haven, both on 6th January with 26 at Cherry Cobb on 3rd February the only other occurrences of more than ten birds during the early months.

Autumn numbers were without precedent with much movement during September and October; many locations reporting record numbers. 19 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 6th September increased to 120 by the 19th; 205 on 28th then 330 on 1st October; 550 on 13th October; 1080 on 15th and 1375 on the 18th, (the highest count ever recorded in Yorkshire – the previous record being 400 at Cherry Cobb on 8th December 1974) before a rapid decrease to 380 on the 21st then to 25 by the 24th. 120 present on 28th increasing to 580 by 1st November then 440 on 3rd; 175 on 14th and only four on the 20th.

28 flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 29th August; 20 west at Sunk Island on 4th September; 32 west at Blacktoft Sands on 13th September when 27 flew west at Winterset Res. 48 west at Blacktoft Sands on 20th with 42 west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st. On 22nd, 117 south at Flamborough; 91 south at Spurn; 48 west at Sunk Island; 65 west at Methley with 17 down at Blackmoorfoot Res. 13 at Swillington Ings on the 23rd.

In October; 107 west at Blacktoft Sands on the 20th with peak of 111 at Tophill Low Res. declining to 40 by the 31st. 32 south at Barmston on 22nd. 189 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd November; 35 flew southeast over Skipwith Common on the 3rd and 22 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea, on 18th November.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A pair bred in the Broomhill Ings area being present from 14th April. Five males with two females present during May; three males and a female during June with birds present in July. A female with six young on 6th August; 11 birds, including juveniles, on 18th August; four remaining on 2nd October with one from the 4th to 8th and 16th to 19th. A pair at Edderthorpe Flash from 26th April to 29th June was thought to have bred but failed. Three or four pairs

probably bred along the Lower Derwent where the first pair arrived on 2nd April. Breeding possibly occurred at Pulfin Bog.

In VC 61, the first to arrive was at Pulfin Bog on 15th March. One or two birds occasionally during the spring at Hornsea Mere; Tophill Low Res.; Barmston and Flamborough whilst a pair were present at Filey Dams from 3rd April to 19th May with four on the 18th May. Single birds at eight locations in VC 63 (not including breeding locations) between May and September, usually only for short periods.

A pair at Farnham G.P., VC 64, in early April with one at Swillington Ings during most of May. In autumn, singles at High Batts N.R. and Eccup Res. whilst Swillington Ings had from 18th to 24th decreasing to three by 6th September then five on 14th; three to the 18th and two to 22nd.

VC 65 reported a pair on 7th May at Pallet Hill; a pair at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th August and one on 28th September; one at Stapleton on 8th September.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

About 60 pairs attempted to breed along the Lower Derwent though only five broods seen. At least one pair bred at Tophill Low Res.. Bred in VC 63 at Broomhill Ings (two broods of eight); Denaby Ings (two pairs); Potteric Carr (three pairs-16 young) and Blacktoft Sands (seven pairs; 53 young; 35 fledged). The only reported breeding in VC 64 was at Swillington Park (one pair; eight young).

Numbers in VC 61 generally low with maximum along the Lower Derwent of 90 in March though the autumnal peaks at Tophill Low Res. were 145 in September and 142 in October. 30 plus at the main locations in VC 63 with maxima of 84 in October at Broomhill Ings; 80 in September at Potteric Carr; 57 on 15th September at Pugneys' C.P.; 49 at Blacktoft Sands on 27th October.

The only large numbers in VC 64 were in the Swillington/Leventhorpe area with 68 on 8th August increasing to 101 by the 24th rising to a peak of 208 on 12th October then declining to 40 by mid December but 99 present on the 21st. 22 at Mickletown Ings on 7th March. Away from the Aire; Eccup Res. had 19 on 28th September. 31 at Bolton-on-Swale on 11th September was the highest count for VC 65.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Single females at Tophill Low Res. on 18th January (RL) and 15th April (TR). Three females/immatures at Filey Dams on 17th August (IR:DJW). A pair at Bishopthorpe Ings on 25th February whilst in VC 63, a male at Winterset Res. from 4th September to years' end (DG: VH) no doubt the bird reported from Pugneys' C.P. on 5th December (RAD).

A first year male at Potteric Carr on 16th September (LJD); male at the Rother Valley C.P. from 3rd to 13th January (many obs); two northwest over Southfield Res. on 19th August (CF). In VC 64; a female at Farnham G.P. on 21st August with two on 23rd (MGM:PW) female at Malham Tarn from 17th September to 22nd October (AC: BS) with an eclipse male on the Wharfe at Linton Bridge on 12th September (IHD).

A female at Cleasby, VC 65, from 26th December to the years' end; a pair at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th February moving to Broken Brea the following day whilst a female was at Bolton-on-Swale from 18th to 22nd November.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Breeding occurred at Pulfin Bog (no details); Tophill Low Res. (one pair; five young); Welton Water (two pairs; seven young); Newport Brick Ponds (two pairs; six young); Rise Park (two pairs; 12 young); Burton Constable (one pair); Lower Derwent (three or four pairs; no young); Stanley Ferry (one pair; three young); Stanley Marsh (one pair; two young); Potteric Carr (one pair; three fledged); Blacktoft Sands (ten pairs; nine broods; 48 young; 11 reared); Allerton Bywater (two pairs; two young); Alltoft Ings (one pair; five young); Alltoft Ings (one pair; five young); Mickletown Ings (three pairs, 11 young) and Newmillerdam (one pair, no young).

Maxima in VC 61 were 1800 on the Lower Derwent in March with 600 in January and 890 in February; 200 at Brandesburton on 13th March and 219 at Tophill Low Res. in February. In VC 62, 123 at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough, on 5th January whilst in VC 63; 350 at Winterset

Res. on 23rd September; 279 at Southfield Res. in October and 110 at Pugneys' C.P. on 17th February, the maxima reported.

Over 50 recorded at six locations in VC 64 where peak counts were 250 at Malham Tarn on 17th November; 696 at Swillington Ings on 19th January increasing during cold weather to 1037 on 15th February decreasing rapidly to ten by early March; 357 there on 31st December. 165 at Bolton-on-Swale on 13th January was the highest count for VC 65.

Little coastal passage noted but westerly passage along the Ouse at Blacktoft Sands with 78 on 26th October and 44 on 10th December.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Adult male at Allerton Bywater on 20th and 23rd March (SG:GC:MS *et al*) moving to Ledston on 24th (JM) then to Swillington Ings on 31st (MPL) returning to Ledston on 1st April (JM). An eclipse drake at Winterset Res. from 26th to 28th August (PS *et al*) and possibly this same bird, now in almost full plumage, on 19th and 20th September (SD). An immature male at Worsbrough Res. on 4th October (KDR:GJ:GH:GL) is still under consideration by BBRC.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

The male at Swillington Ings during late 1990 remained there until 13th January (MB:AJR *et al*). One, considered to be the same bird, at Mickletown Ings on 2nd September, was present also on the 7th and 15th September and 31st December (BT), being reported daily at Swillington Ings from 17th December to the years' end. One at Eccup Res. on 30th October. A female at Blacktoft Sands from 22nd April and an eclipse male at Pugneys' C.P. on 31st August (PS).

Addition to the 1990 Report: a male at Winterset on 14th September.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

An extremely poor breeding season along the Lower Derwent; only six pairs producing just one brood. Under reported as a breeding species in the remainder of VC 61 with records from only Tophill Low Res.; Puffin Bog; Settrington; Winttingham and Scampston. In VC 62, bred at Newburgh and Coxwold whilst in VC 63 bred at 28 locations totalling 75 pairs with a minimum of 327 young – a marked increase on 1990. A very successful breeding season in VC 64 despite low water levels with 45 pairs rearing 246 young. 12 broods reported in VC 65.

Peak counts in VC 61 were from Tophill Low Res. with maxima of: January, 450; February, 507; October, 490; November 800; December 576. 350 on the Lower Derwent during March. 58 flew west at Sunk Island on 20th October with 41 west there on 26th.

40 at Castle Howard on 8th December being the highest count for VC 62. Pugneys' C.P. and nearby Winterset Res. had by far the largest gatherings in VC 63; Pugneys' having 455 on 16th January and 430 on 31st December with, at Winterset, 465 on 27th October; 427 on 24th November and 470 on 15th December. Thrybergh C.P. had up to 216 in December.

Swillington Ings, VC 64, recorded very high numbers with 804 on 16th January rising to 1184 on 15th February then decreasing to 205 on 24th March. 439 on 31st July was an exceptionally high post breeding count, increasing to 522 on 17th August. 534 on 14th December. The only other locations occasionally holding over 100 were Malham Tarn; Eccup Res., Mickletown Ings and Hay-a-Park. Highest counts in VC 65 were from Bolton-on-Swale and Nosterfield with 203 on 13th January and 163 in August, respectively.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

17 on the Humber at Spurn on 9th February increasing to 121 on 17th then generally less than ten until 12th April excepting 32 on 16th March. Widely reported from the coast during the early months with maxima of 12 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea, on 10th February; ten at Barmston on 20th April and 13 at Flamborough on 5th May. 18 at Flamborough on 22nd September and eight at Sunk Island on 20th October. Inland, in VC 61, up to five at Tophill Low Res. from 1st February to 17th March and six from 28th October to 1st November. Four at Puffin Bog on 24th February being the first record for that location. The Lower Derwent reported unprecedented numbers with four on 26th February; five on 1st March; nine on the 2nd and 7th falling to one on 9th then five on 17th; 17 on 13th; five on 14th; 11 on 15th and five on 20th.

Widespread in VC 63 with peaks of 15 during February and ten in March at Southfield Res.

11 on the River Don near Southfield on 21st and 14 near Thorne on the 23rd. Six at Worsbrough Res. on the 7th on which date 79 flew into Pugnies' C.P. during heavy snow; 49 leaving again during the afternoon (by far the highest count ever inland in Yorkshire). One to four reported occasionally from a further nine locations.

In VC 64, frequent at Swillington Ings with one to two birds to early February then seven on 8th; 18 on 13th and 20 on 23rd decreasing to three by 17th March. 12 on 26th October; three on 2nd November with six on 24th; seven on 21st December; nine on 26th and ten on 28th/29th. One to two occasionally at a further six locations.

Conversely, very scarce in VC 65 with a male at Stapleton/Cleasby on 9th/10th March being the only record.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Maxima during the early months were 146 at Flamborough on 14th January; 36 on 10th March; 43 on 6th May. Up to 23 summered there. 30 on the Humber at Spurn on 27th January with 54 on 16th February whilst 26 at Filey during March.

1016 reported at Flamborough during November with very heavy northerly passage on the 20th when 446 were counted; 420 at Barmston that same day but c1436 passed Atwick (largest daily total for Yorkshire) including one flock of c476 just prior to dusk. Of the birds passing Atwick only 75 were adjudged to be adult males with a further 110 immature males. Several flocks were seen to gain height moving in over the land as though to pass well inland of Bridlington.

Occasional records from Sunk Island of one to four but eight west on 9th August and 13 east on 12th October.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Few during the early months on the coast with no location recording more than bird. One flew east at Spurn on 25th May.

A total of 47 at Flamborough during October then maxima of 12 on 21st November and four on 6th December. Up to five at Barmston on ten days between 18th October and 18th November. One to three occasionally at Spurn; Easington; Filey and Scarborough during this same period. Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, three west on 20th October; two on the river plus 17 west on 1st November with one at Skeffling on 13th October. Fresh water records all involved singles; at Bransholme S.W. on 9th November; Pulfin Bog on 24th November and Tophill Low Res. from 1st to 8th and 11th December.

In VC 62, one at Newburgh on 20th and 26th October. One at Blacktoft Sands, VC 63, from 26th October to 16th November whilst in VC 64, a female at Farnham G.P. from 20th to 27th October; two at Eccup Res. on 21st then two (pair) at Gouthwaite Res. on 1st/2nd November. At Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, the male, first reported on 4th November 1990 remained until 5th February; two there on 1st November.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Up to 250 in Filey Bay during January and February whilst less than 100 were reported off Flamborough until late June, similarly at Spurn, where the first appreciable daily total was 240 flying north on 2nd July. 250 north at Barmston on 24th July. October saw large numbers with a monthly total of 5387 at Flamborough with 2872 at Spurn between the 20th and 27th. The 20th produced large numbers at several locations; 1010 at Flamborough; 1020 at Barmston and 657 at Atwick whilst 400 flew west at Sunk Island (160 later returning east in one party) but only 35 seen off the Humber Wildfowl Refuge also being reported at Blacktoft Sands. 1046 at Flamborough on 21st with 1630 on the 22nd (highest documented daily total for Yorkshire this century) when 850 flew north at Barmston and 800 south with 651 north at Spurn. On the 23rd, 238 north at Scarborough with 88 west at the Refuge on 24th.

Inland, 300 flew southwest during the evening of 26th July at Winterset Res. and 110 flew in from the northeast departing westwards, at Rievaulx on 27th September. 25 females at Eccup Res. on 20th October and 22 at Winterset Res. on 17th May with 17 at Thrybergh C.P. on 22nd October. A pair at Nosterfield on 7th May.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

Addition to the 1990 Report:

One at Barnston on 18th January (PP) and one at Reighton Sands on 11th November (TI).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Very scarce during the early months with two at Spurn on 16th January and 16th February; one at Filey on 2nd February. Widespread in October with one to five at Spurn; Hornsea; Atwick; Barnston; Flamborough; Filey and Scarborough. Larger counts being 14 at Flamborough on 21st October; ten there on 22nd when 12 at Barnston; nine on 23rd and 12 the following day at Scarborough. 11 at Flamborough on 6th November; seven on 10th and six on 21st. Present in Filey Bay from late November to years' end peaking at 32 on 1st December.

Two west at Sunk Island on 20th October; one west on 7th December. A female at Tophill Low Res. from 21st to 24th November. Six west along the Ouse at Blacktoft Sands on 8th November whilst further inland; two at Pugneys' C.P. on 13th March and singles at Wintersetts Res. on 24th and 27th October.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

In VC 61, maxima at Tophill Low Res. was; January/February, 50; March 78; April 50 decreasing to 14 by 31st April but seven remaining until early July and three/four in August. 55 in October; 59, November and 120 December. Smaller numbers elsewhere with maxima of 21 along the Lower Derwent and 14 at Puffin Bog. 19 at Castle Howard on 19th December the highest count in VC 62. In VC 63; Wintersetts Res. recorded 77 on 13th January with 111 on 24th February and 89 on 17th March. Elsewhere only Pugneys' C.P. with 24 on 16th January and the Rother Valley C.P. with 11 in February reported double figures. During the latter months 98 at Wintersetts Res. on 5th December with nowhere else reporting more than 14. One at Wintersetts Res. on seven days between 16th May and 2nd June; one at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd June.

In VC 64; 31 at Eccup Res. on both 26th January and 17th March; 31 at Knotford Nook on 23rd February; 58 at Swillington Ings on 16th January, 61 on 9th February and 35 at Hay-a-Park in January and February. Three to five at Swillington Ings from May to August; singles at Eccup Res. on 3rd June and Malham Tarn on 5th and 7th June; 10th and 18th July. Maximum during the latter months was 34 at Eccup Res. on 29th December.

Fewer at Bolton-on-Swale than in recent years; 43 on 17th March being maximum with 41 at Nosterfield on 6th March.

Much movement in October; on 19th, 50 north at Scarborough; 55 west at Sunk Island; on 20th; 47 south and 11 north at Spurn; 249 west at Sunk Island; 46 west at Blacktoft Sands; 550 north at Barnston (record daily total for Yorkshire); 112 at Flamborough; 72 at Atwick and 37 north, 28 south with 39 in the bay at Filey. 52 at Barnston on 21st.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

In VC 61, five at Hempholme on 22nd February; up to four (three males) at Tophill Low Res. from 9th to 19th February with a late female on 7th May; male at Brandesburton on 23rd February; *redheads* at Kilnsea on 10th February and the Lower Derwent on 2nd and 7th March. In VC 63, males at Blacktoft Sands on 21st February and Broomhill Ings from 22nd to 24th. Male plus *redhead* at Southfield Res. on 15th January; *redhead* at Pugneys' C.P. on 31st January. In VC 64; one/two *redheads* at Knotford Nook until 13th March plus an immature male on 23rd February and 8th March. Two *redheads* at both Harewood and Eccup Res. on 17th February with singles at both on 17th March. At Swillington Ings/Park, a *redhead* until 8th May; second on 15th and 25th January with a third on 26th/27th, three birds (one an adult male) on 14th February with two *redheads* on 17th.

Only reported from VC 65 at Cleasby with *redhead* from 2nd to 6th February; two from 23rd until 9th March and one at Bolton-on-Swale from 12th to 17th March.

During the latter months only *redheads* reported. In October at Flamborough on 14th; to the west at the Wildfowl Refuge then Blacktoft Sands on 20th and Ardsley Res. on 24th. Two at Tophill Low Res. on 21st November; four at Broomhead Res. on 22nd then one at Tophill Low Res. from 25th to 11th December. One at Roundhay from 9th to 11th December; Swillington Ings, 5th; 8th and 14th to 31st; Tophill Low Res. 23rd/24th; Puffin Bog 15th to 31st and Pugneys' C.P. on 28th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

No breeding records received. Six were on the Humber at Spurn on 31st May with ten at Barmston on 19th August; 24 north there on 20th October with 12 at Flamborough whilst 14 at the latter on 27th. One to six at four other coastal/estuarine locations. Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 24th February and Wressle on 5th April. Two at Newburgh Priory, VC 62, on 19th April with singles at Castle Howard on 20th April and Clifton on 7th October. In VC 63; six at Blacktoft Sands on 8th February; six at Southfield Res. on 29th October; three at Thrybergh C.P. on 25th March. Pairs at Southfield Res. on 17th February; Redmires Res. from 24th March until 15th April and Boshaw Whams on 25th May. Single birds occasionally at a further six locations in this VC.

A poor year in VC 64 with four birds at Gouthwaite Res. on 22nd May and three on 29th September. One or two occasionally at a further four locations.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Bred on the Rye in VC 62; on the Wharfe; Ure and Nidd, in VC 64 and 'the main rivers of VC 65' though no reports of significant range expansion. With the exception of the Lower Derwent, still scarce in VC 61, there maxima were; January, 17; February 73; March ten and April 17. Otherwise ten at Flamborough on 24th February and 11 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in December were the only records of double figures.

Large numbers at Castle Howard, VC 62, with maxima of; January 140; February 43; March 38; November 37 and December 111. Southfield Res. held the largest numbers in VC 63 with peaks of 42 on 4th February; 63 on 22nd then 76 on 1st March and 84 on the 3rd; two there on 1st June with 24 returning during December. Maxima at other locations were; 31 at Winterset Res. on 21st January; 40 at Pugneys' C.P. on 7th February and 18 in the Elland area on 27th January.

Hay-a-Park, VC 64, held very large numbers with monthly maxima of 214 in January; 200 in February; 83 in November and 298 in December (highest count for Yorkshire). Other locations supporting large numbers were Eccup Res. with 101 on 15th; 109 on 16th and 102 on 26th January; 101 on 17th February and 98 on 31st December. 61 at Swillington Ings on 17th February with 51 on 25th March and 42 on 26th December; 45 at Keswick Fitts on 6th September was a very high count for early autumn. Leighton Res. VC 65, had 40 on 16th February; 53 on 21st April with 80 on 23rd November; 58 on 26th December and 212 on 30th. 30 at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd August.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Continues to spread and increase. Bred at Pulfen Bog, VC 61 and probably along the Lower Derwent. Reported for the first time from Flamborough. 55 at Tophill Low Res. on 1st January with up to 40 in December and 22 at Pulfen Bog on 20th September. A female at Burton Riggs G.P. on 4th May the only record from VC 62. In VC 63 has not yet reached the Bradford and Halifax areas and scarce to the west of Huddersfield. Bred at some 15 locations with 30+ pairs rearing at least 108 young. 36 at Worsbrough in early January with 24 at Pugneys' C.P. in August as maxima.

At least 16 pairs bred in VC 64 with eight at Mickletown Ings. Increasing in the Harrogate area with one reaching Malham Tarn on 1st March. 98 at Swillington Ings on 26th January; 116 on 17th February; 113 on 24th September with 127 on 18th and 24th October. 32 at Mickletown Ings on 24th July. Breeding suspected at Pallet Hill, VC 65, whilst numbers continue to increase at Bolton-on-Swale with up to 12 at the end of the year.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Birds present at two locations during the summer. Singles north over Huddersfield on 28th May (TMe); over Elland G.P. on 8th June (NCD:AZ) and to the east over High Batts N.R. on 8th September (PBK:PVI:SPW)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One at Tophill Low Res. on 1st January (DA:HPRD:RL *et al*); one near Scotch Corner on 5th January (JMcC) with one at Kilnsea then Spurn on 3rd April leaving to the west (TC:BRS *et al*), possibly the same at Fishermans' Channel (Sunk Island) on the 11th. A wing-tagged bird

(Scottish) seen occasionally in the Wharfedale/Washburn areas between 13th January and 10th April. One regularly reported from the Moors near Simons' Seat/Barden in the early months; occasionally during the summer and more regularly in the latter months. A wing-tagged bird on Feldom Ranges between 26th and 31st December.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A pair built a nest at Blacktoft Sands but no eggs laid; the male being present from 26th April to 29th September; the female from 15th May to 4th October. A total of 22 individuals passed through this location between 4th April and 10th June with five together on 22nd/23rd May. Also 22 in autumn with four on 20th and 24th August; seven on 13th and 25th September. Elsewhere in VC 63, occasionally reported on passage at Potteric Carr; Winterset Res.; Broomhill Ings; Southfield Res.; South Anston and Thorne Moors.

Reported from ten locations in VC 61 during spring after the first at Flamborough on 13th April; all singles except two at Barmston on 10th June. Two there again on 14th August with singles at nine further locations until 24th September. Two records from VC 62; one at Osmotherly Res. on 7th April and one at Egton High Moor on 22nd June. A male to the east of Harrogate on 15th April with two or three individuals occasionally also reported at that location. Singles occasionally at Gouthwaite Res.; Staveley; Skell Gill and Bardsey.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Three occurrences of females in Swaledale during the breeding season and, in July, a male and female plus two juveniles on the moors above Swaledale. A gamekeeper, present with the observer, considered local breeding a probability (per LJD).

Only single birds roosted at Thorne Moors and Broomhead Moor whilst up to four at Blacktoft Sands in January; up to six from 24th February to 18th March then five on 1st April with one to 3rd May. One from 8th September; two from 24th October; three on 24th and four on 28th November remaining to years' end. One at Redmires Res. on 23rd September with three from 5th October to years' end; two at Fylingdales on 24th January. West of Halifax; three from 27th to 31st December plus a male in the vicinity. A wing-tagged female here had been marked in 1990 in Lanarkshire.

Two south at Spurn on 17th October otherwise only single birds occasionally at some 12 locations in VC 61; singles at seven locations in VC 63 away from the roosts whilst in VC 64 not reported away from the upland areas, usually single birds but three at Gouthwaite Res. on 15th October and two regularly there during November/December. Two near Leighton Res. on 14th December and two in the Ribble valley on 19th November.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Ringtail at Broomhill Ings on 19th May (JMT); Female at Blacktoft Sands on 27th May with and adult male there on 1st June (AG *et al*) and an immature male from 6th to 8th June. An adult male at Barmston on 10th/11th June (PP) with a similar bird at Flamborough on 13th July (DB) and one (the same?) at Tophill Low Res. on 14th (IF). An immature at Wilsic from 22nd to 24th August (LJD *et al*) and a female at Flamborough on the 26th (PAL:MN).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Bred or possibly bred at some 12 locations but reports not received from all areas. Outwith the breeding season reported from Flamborough with two records in April and on six occasions in autumn including birds flying in off the sea on 26th October and 24th November. A bird on 1st October was considered to be of the race *A.g. butiodes*.

Elsewhere in VC 61, singles reported from Atwick; Escrick; Fulford; Skipwith; Wheldrake and Storwood whilst in VC 63 singles occasionally at Broomhill Ings; Carlton Marsh; Blacktoft Sands; Rockley and near Penistone. in VC 64, at Swillington; Pool Paper Mills; Rothwell and High Batts N.R. with singles occasionally in VC 65 at Leighton Res. and Scruton.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Still increasing in VC 61; maxima reported along the coast being six at Filey on 21st April and 1st September; ten at Flamborough on 6th October with nine on 14th and eight on both 13th and

27th. No status changes reported from VCs 62; 63 or 64 where good populations exist in many areas.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One pair reared three young in VC 65 whilst two further pairs were thought to have bred in VC 64. Frequently seen in the Gouthwaite Res./Scar House area of VC 64 with ten present on 5th October, many remaining until years' end. Many records from the lower areas to the east of the Pennines whilst occasionally reported from the coastal areas of VC 61. One or two present near Bielby (VC 61) from mid September to mid December.

Correction to the 1989 Report:

After discussions with the York Ornithological Club it has been agreed to withdraw the breeding record near Brandsby owing to lack of substantive evidence.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

One off the sea at Spurn on 28th September with one to the west there on 4th October (BRS *et al.*). One at Filey on 6th (JH:HJW) with another on 16th (SC). Singles at Flamborough on 3rd November (JCL:DB) and Atwick on 4th December (WFC). One in Newtondale, VC 62, on 24th November (DBY). In VC 63, one at Wilsic on 2nd November (DJS) and one on Midhope Moor on 7th (AD) whilst in VC64/65 one occasionally in the Roundhill Res/Leighton Res/Scar House areas during November and December. One near Ravensworth on 12th November (GDM).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

One near Barden on 19th April (FAW).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

All records concern single birds. The first reported being at Farnham G.P. on 17th March and at Mickley the following day. In April, on 3rd at Farnham G.P.; 7th at Thrybergh C.P.; 10th at Wensley; 13th at Mickletown Ings; 21st at Tophill Low Res.; 23rd at Elland G.P. and 29th at Broomhill Ings. In May, on 6th at Blacktoft Sands; 9th at Spurn and Howden Res.; 10th at Masham; 11th at Tophill Low Res.; 12th at Blacktoft Sands, Southfield Res. (until 14th) and Sprotbrough; 14th at Boltby and Chelker Res.; 19th Gunnerside; 22nd, Broomhill Ings; 25th, North Cave; 26th Tophill Low Res.; 29th Blackmoorfoot Res. and 31st at Wheldrake Ings and Sprotbrough (remaining to 1st June). Four in June; on 1st at Redmires; 14th at Spurn; 16th at Langsett Res. and 18th at Yateholme. In July at Ingbirchworth Res. on 9th; Winterset Res. on 13th; 17th and 20th (same bird) considered to be same at Broomhill Ings on 18th. In August; on 10th at Blubberhouses; 13th at Broomhill Ings; 18th at Tophill Low Res.; 24th at Holmfirth and 28th at Redmires Res. and Staveley whilst in September at Darton on 1st; Hurst Fish Farm (VC 65) on 3rd; Southfield Res. on 9th; Blacktoft Sands on 10th; Spurn on 12th and the last at Bransholme on 22nd.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Widespread and common with no status changes reported. Passage along the coast gave daily totals of 15 at Flamborough on 31st August and 21 at Spurn on 3rd October. 14 at Blacktoft Sands on 4th August whilst unprecedented numbers were in Upper Nidderdale during late summer with 42 at Scar House Res. on 4th August.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

An exceptionally good breeding season in the northern dales of VC 65. Apparently no change in status in VC 64 whilst vague information from VC 63 where, at 16 locations only five pairs are thought to have bred successfully. Many records from the lower ground and the coast during the non breeding season, predominately of single birds but four in the Broomhill Ings area from mid August to late September; three at Blacktoft Sands on 30th November/1st December; three at Spurn on 14th September. Two occasionally at Flamborough and frequently at Spurn.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A very juvenile bird on the edge of the North York Moors on 8th August is the only hint of breeding anywhere. One at Flamborough on 5th May the first followed by occurrences at a

further ten locations during that month. All, except two on Thorne Moors on the 21st concerned single birds. Recorded at fewer locations in June though both Broomhill Ings and Blacktoft Sands had birds on five days. Slightly more widespread in July being recorded at 12 locations, all singles except five adults on Thorne Moors on the 28th. Single birds at 14 locations in August generally on one or two days but on four at both Filey and Blacktoft Sands. Fewer in September but reported from eight locations in VC 63; two at Flamborough on 15th; then in October at Blacktoft Sands on 5th; Flamborough on 14th and Spurn on 19th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

An estimated 14 pairs nested in the Yorkshire part of the Dales National Park (no further details). At least four pairs which nested in VC 63 may however have been included in the above; one pair possibly bred in VC 62.

The spread continues with birds reported from many locations outwith the breeding season, also considered to have been an indication of a successful breeding season. Records generally concerned single birds but two not infrequently reported from Blacktoft Sands; Filey and Flamborough whilst up to four were occasionally at some upland areas of VCs 64 and 65.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

A good recovery on the high moors noted from VC 65 following the 1989 'plague'. Little change of status in VC 64 although obviously had a good year whilst numbers were still low in VC 63.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

In VC 65; regularly reported from Feldon Ranges where the maximum number was eight (six males). 12 (11 males) at Lunds on 29th January with a female at Whashton on 28th April. In VC 64; three (two males) near Settle on 22nd November and a single male on Steam Moor on 7th April.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Little change in status in most areas but reduced in numbers in parts of VC 63 though good breeding numbers at some locations in the Barnsley and Doncaster areas. 30 breeding pairs at Wilsic though thought to include some released stock. 63 at Edderthorpe on 21st September; 50 during September at Thrybergh C.P. whilst coveys of 15+ reported from several locations in VCs 61; 63 and 64.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

No change in status reported this year except from VC 63 where opinions conflicted; several areas commenting on either low numbers or a decline. The tendency in this VC to breed on upland (over 800 feet) unimproved land continues to increase albeit slowly. Largest coveys reported; 60 at Broomhill in September; 50 at Sunk Island on 16th February; 45 at Thrybergh C.P. on 10th October and 40 at Spofforth on 16th February. 24 pairs bred at Wilsic.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Very few this year with only singles between Allerthorpe and Sutton-on-Derwent on 2nd June; Wroot on 28th June; Boshaw Whams on 13th July; Thornton Ellers on 14th and at Barmston on 17th and 22nd.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

No change in status with large numbers released in some areas clouding the true status. A Pheasant x Lady Amhersts' Pheasant (male) at Eccup Res. on 9th May.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

At least one still present in Whitcliffe Woods (near Richmond). One at Allerton church (near Harrogate) on 14th July.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Breeding reported from Blacktoft Sands (five pairs); Mickletown Ings (one pair, two young)

and Wheldrake Ings (at least one pair). Adults with juveniles seen in autumn at both Staveley and Old Denaby and may have bred at those locations. One or two at many locations during both winter periods; three occasionally at Tophill Low Res. during January and early February; Worsbrough Res and High Royd S.F. in December with three at Spurn on 15th; five at Staveley on 4th December with five at Winterset Res. from 26th October onwards and at least six on 14th December. Ten at Blacktoft Sands during August; 15 there on 14th January and again during November/December with 22 on 30th October.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

An immature at Blacktoft Sands from 14th to 25th August.

Additions to the 1989 Report: At Blacktoft Sands single adults from 12th to 26th August and 13th September, and single immatures from 21st to 27th August and 8th September.

Correction to the 1990 Report: One at Filey on 1st April, the first at this site. Single immatures at Blacktoft Sands from 29th August to 2nd September, and at Wath Ings on 14th September.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One calling at Finningley on 4th June (DP *et al*); one, decomposed, on the beach at Kilnsea on 10th July (GC:DP) and one at Spurn on 30th August (DC).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status apparently unchanged though a poor breeding season on the River Don at Sheffield (15 young from 26 territories). Largest gatherings were 153 at Broomhill Ings in November with 126 there in January; 95 at Tophill Low Res. on 8th February.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status apparently unchanged. 20 pairs at Blacktoft Sands hatched 72 young but only reared ten. 84 young from 38 broods at Broomhill Ings with 23 young from 21 broods at Edderthorpe. The largest gatherings reported were 1187 at Winterset Res. on 10th November with 1008 there on 1st January; 725 at Hay-a-Park in November; 636 at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th January; 550 at Malham Tarn on 4th November; 480 at Farnham G.P. in February and 450 in the Rother Valley C.P. during December.

Crane *Grus grus*

Four to the north over Scarborough on 18th June (MFr).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Bred in VC 61 at Spurn; Barmston and several locations along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area. In VC 63 at Blacktoft Sands and Blaxton G.P. (unsuccessful) whilst in VC 64 no change in breeding status was reported. In VC 65 no significant increase in breeding numbers despite continued increase in numbers during spring.

Estuary counts gave totals of: 6th January, 1554; 3rd February, 102 (cold spell); 24th March, 771; 21st April, 518; 19th May, 576; 11th August, 596; 15th September, 1946; 13th October, 2783; 24th November, 574 and 15th December, 1264. Additionally up to 2000 present at Spurn occasionally during January; a similar number again in mid September increasing then with 3000 during October and November. Southerly passage reported from that location in autumn with 518 on 27th July and 442 on 7th August.

Westerly passage noted at Blacktoft Sands with 18 on 20th June; 61 on 21st July and 261 on 18th August. Numbers inland in VC 63 being generally low with 13 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th July. Seven at Redmires Res. on 12th August when five were at Ringstone Edge Res.

The first returning birds in VC 64 were on 14th February at Pool Paper Mills thereafter quite well distributed with spring maxima of 110 in the Ribble valley on 10th March; 27 at Hay-a-Park in March; 27 at Knotford Nook on 10th March and 30 at Hawkswick on 3rd. By late July most had departed but 24 at Eccup Res. on 23rd and 31 at Lindley Wood Res. on 24th. One at Gouthwaite Res. on 6th October being the last.

Spring maxima in VC 65 were 144 at Nosterfield on 9th March; 87 at Thorton Steward Res. on the 3rd; 81 at Spennithorne on 24th with 55 at Leyburn on 17th; 43 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st and 41 at Masham on 17th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One on 7th May at Blacktoft Sands from 0800 to 1000 (ND.AG. C.Wa) then briefly a little after 1000 at nearby Southfield Res. (CF) before departing westwards to be seen between 1445 and 1845 at Wath Main Marsh (JGH *et al*). One, probably this same bird, reported from Flamborough (MN:BR:BH) and Filly Dams (DEB:IR) on the 11th and finally spending almost all day at Blacktoft Sands on the 12th (many obs).

One at Flamborough on 7th September (CD) is still under consideration by BBRC.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Singles at Sunk Island, flying west, on 23rd and 30th March and on the Humber shore on 14th April (JW) and 16th July (RTS) with one at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on the last date (PJ). Five flew south at Spurn on 24th August whilst in VC 63; two at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd June; one on 30th being present the following day and four on 28th July (AG *et al*).

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemos*

One at Easington Lagoons on 13th June being seen at Spurn later that same day (DH:JMc). Another at Spurn on 7th July (LJD).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The only breeding records in VC 61 were of single pairs at Tophill Low Res and Pulfen Bog with possible breeding occurring near Riccall. Bred at Wykeham, in VC 62; attempted to breed at York Waterworks and may have done so at Burton Riggs G.P. In VC 63; 13 pairs bred successfully; seven failed and eight where either the outcome was unknown or they may have been only probable breeders. A poor breeding year in the Harrogate area of VC 64 and only six pairs in the Leeds area. 13 pairs bred in VC 65; two at Pallet Hill and Masham; six along the Swale between Little Langton and Ellerton with one pair at each of Leyburn; Stapleton and Nosterfield.

Peaks counts reported were eight at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd May with 17 on 25th July; ten at Broomhill Ings on 8th April with 22 on 2nd July; 15 at Blacktoft Sands on 14th July and 15 at Eccup Res. on 12th August.

The first of the year was at Knotford Nook on 7th March with the last at Blacktoft Sands on 5th October.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Bred in VC 61 at Spurn and Barmston; in VC 63, successfully at Wombwell Ings and the Rother Valley C.P. and probably at Blacktoft Sands and Edderthorpe and failing at Winterset Res. (fewer pairs than in recent years). In VC 64, three pairs (two unsuccessful, third with young predated) at Farnham G.P.; two at Swillington and probably two at Mickletown Ings whilst in VC 65, three pairs at Pallet Hill and two at Nosterfield.

Small numbers on the estuary during winter months increasing in spring to 609 on 19th May; 222 on 11th August; 116 on 15th September and 236 on 24th November. At Sunk Island spring peaks were 159 on 18th May with 300 on 25th decreasing to 100 on 26th but 255 on 1st June whilst maximum at Spurn during this period was 80 on 24th May, including a flock of 67 of the race *C.h.tundrarum*. Spring passage in VC 63 saw 24 at Broomhill Ings on 22nd May with 27 at Blacktoft Sands on 18th May and 29 on 14th June (these last being *C.h.tundrarum*) whilst spring passage in both VC 64 and 65 was very light.

Autumn peaks reported were 232 at Spurn on 25th August with 116 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. Inland, Tophill Low Res. had 40 on 10th August increasing to 106 on 17th thence decreasing to 40 by 1st September; 24 at Broomhill Ings on 17th August; 42 at Blacktoft Sands on 12th and 18 at Masham G.P. on 10th including two considered to be of the race *C.h.tundrarum*. 180 at Hull Docks on 6th October.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

During spring a total of at least 22 were in the Swinefleet area between 4th and 19th May with daily counts of ten on 4th; 11 on 6th; 17 on 7th; 11 on 8th; 20 on 9th/10th; 19 on 11th; 13 on 12th/13th; 16 on 14th/15th; 14 on 18th and eight on 19th. (ASB *et al*). One at Blacktoft Sands on

13th May with three nearby on 14th; two at Broadstones Res. on 6th/7th; two at Stoney Ridge on 11th/12th; seven in Upper Nidderdale on 12th with birds present until late May peaking at 33 on 24th (three trips) (ETF:MGHG). Nine in the Bradford area on 10th May (FAW). Three over Sunk Island on 3rd May (JW) whilst in VC 62, one at Rosedale on 9th May (RNH); one on Sleights Moor with a further five flying over on 24th (HOB) and one at Bransdale on 19th (JP).

Scarce in autumn with singles at Filey on 7th September (DJS:PMS); Rosedale on 12th (HOB); Broomhill Ings on 20th; 23rd/24th, Filey on 25th (PJD) and Spurn on 1st October (PB).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Little indication to reflect breeding status, which would apparently be unchanged, excepting 57 territories located on the moorlands of the Barnsley area (NWA). Flocks widespread during the early winter months particularly in VC 61; the largest reported being 4000 at Sunk Island on 3rd February with 2000 on 9th/10th March; 4000 on the Lower Derwent on 25th February with 2500 on 10th April. The BoEE counts gave totals of; 6th January, 1111; 3rd February, 9002 and 24th March, 3766. In VC 63; 1500 at Denaby Common on 16th/17th March; 1350 at Broomhill Ings on 3rd February and 1100 at Blacktoft Sands on 8th March with 1000 at Southfield Res. on 3rd January. In VC 64, 1700 were at Bogs Lane, Harrogate during January.

During the latter months flocks were more widespread and larger. The estuary counts gave; 11th August, 3976; 15th September, 1939; 13th October, 9868; 24th November, 17,903 but only 1395 on 15th December owing to the onset of frost. Individual location totals during this period were; Sunk Island, 2000 on 7th September; 6000 from 27th to 29th October; 8000 on 2nd November and 7200 on 1st December whilst the Refuge held, 3235 during late September; 5500 in October; 10,300 in late November and 11,000 in early December. Other large counts in VC 61 were 2500 near Great Hatfield in October; 1000 near Tophill Low Res. in late August with 2000 there on 15th October.

In VC 63, 2000 at Broomhill Ings on 5th December; 1850 at Blacktoft Sands on 6th December with 1200 on 13th October whilst c1000 at Edderthorpe on 26th November and near Southfield Res. on 24th December. 1500 at Bogs Lane, Harrogate (VC 64) from October to years' end whilst in VC 65, 2000 at Bolton-on-Swale on 15th November and 1000 feeding nearby on 23rd.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Totals on the estuary were; 6th January, 526; 3rd February, 629; 21st April, 396; 19th May, 1115; 11th August, 313; 15th September, 418; 13th October, 464; 24th November, 588 and 15th December, 421. A high proportion of these birds being at Sunk Island where 204 were present on 16th February; 582, 31st March; 671 on 1st April then 301 on 14th. In May; 70 on 9th; increasing to 150 on 11th; 367 on 18th and 885 on 19th then down to 90 on 25th. Peak counts during the latter months being 197 on 14th September whilst Spurn recorded 147 on 12th September with 38 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during that month with 44 in October. Few along the coast excepting at Barmston where 29 present on 21st October and 35 on 2nd November. Southerly passage peaked at Spurn with 65 on 22nd October.

Few inland in VC 61 though in September; six at Tophill Low Res. on 19th; seven on 27th and ten on 28th.

Another good year in VC 63 being reported in every month, usually one or two birds but nine at Winterset Res. on 4th February; eight at Blacktoft Sands on 26th May with 14 on 23rd September; eight at Broomhill Ings on 28th with five at both Southfield Res. on 19th and Willowgarth on the 25th. Up to six at Blacktoft Sands occasionally during October/November. Reported from four locations in VC 64 during spring and at seven in autumn; invariably one or two birds at each but 20 at Swillington Ings on 12th October and eight at Mickletown Ings on 28th. Singles birds at Nosterfield, VC 65, on three occasions with three on 22nd September, two remaining to the 27th and three at Stapleton on 1st/2nd October.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

No comments received on breeding status. Flocks of 1000 were reported from many locations with larger gatherings in VC 61 of up to 4250 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in October; 7152 in November and 9500+ in December whilst 3000 present on 26th October at Sunk Island with 6000 on 2nd November and 3000 on 1st December. Total counts for the estuary gave; 6th

January, 3691; 3rd February, 11,615; 13th October, 3442; 24th November, 12,620 but only 295 on 15th December (frost). 2000 at Harpham on 23rd October whilst the Lower Derwent valley held 4580 on 3rd January; 5500 on 27th February; 3500 on 2nd March and 3000 by the end of November. Locations in VC 63 to report gatherings of 1000+ were Blacktoft Sands with 1200 on 25th October; 2600 on 28th November and 3500 on 5th December; Broomhill Ings; 1150 on 25th September; 2000 on 5th December; Broadstones Res. with 2500 on 27th July and Southfield Res. with between 1500 and 2000 on 23rd November. West to south westerly movement noted over Sheffield on 7th and 9th December totalling 2704 birds in two hours.

2000 at Ripon during January was the only large flock reported in VC 64 during the early months but 1000 at Gouthwaite Res. in July/September; 1000 at High Batts N.R. in August and near Ripon in December with 1500 at Hay-a-Park in December.

2500 at Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd November; 1750 at Scorton on 28th and 2000 at Nosterfield during the same month being the maxima in VC 65.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

BoEE counts gave; 6th January, 5341; 3rd February, 2668; 24th March, 3100; 21st April, 214. Small numbers in autumn to late October then large influx with on 24th November, 10,647; 15th December, 19,157. Maxima at Spurn were; up to 4000 in January with 12,000 on 28th February; 900 on 23rd October; 9000 on 15th November and 7500 during December whilst at Sunk Island; 5400 on 20th January; 8700 on 3rd February; 3100 on 16th March; 800 on 28th October; 1600 on 9th November and 850 on 26th December.

Away from the estuary, in VC 61, only small numbers along the coast with peak southerly passage occurring on 6th September with 80 at Barmston and 275 at Spurn. Inland, one or two infrequently at Tophill Low Res. from 18th July to 29th September with four on 30th July.

In VC 63; 30 west at Blacktoft Sands on 8th February; eight on 21st September; 39 west on 29th October with 28 west on 2nd November. One to three occasionally there in July/August. Excepting Blacktoft Sands, a poor year in this VC with five west at Southfield Res. on 4th November otherwise singles on one or two days at Edderthorpe Flash; Poolsbrook; Wintersetts Res.; Southfield Res. Blackmoorfoot Res. and Ardsley Res.

In VC 64; two at Staveley on 1st September and two at Swillington Ings on 25th September otherwise singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 10th/11th August; Eccup Res. on 1st October and Swillington Ings on 10th March; 8th June; 23rd/24th September; 26th October and 10th November. Only reported at Stapleton, in VC 65, where singles were present from 28th to 31st August and September 30th to 8th October.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Counts in Bridlington Bay/Barmston gave 45 on 23rd February; 67 on 9th March; 35 on 28th April; 16 on 23rd May with 28 on 3rd June then 130 on 27th October and 90 on 22nd November. Good numbers at Filey with monthly maxima being; January, 60; March, 65; April, 27; October, 44; November, 28 and December, 125. Spurn reported 130 on 4th and 108 on 25th August with 101 on 2nd November. Counts along the estuary all below 50 excepting 123 on 11th August; 15 at Sunk Island on both 20th July and 10th August maxima there. Inland, singles at Tophill Low Res. on 24th May and 11th August and at Puffin Bog on 27th July.

In VC 62; 109 on Scarborough South Beach on 3rd January; 40 there on 27th April with 20 on 6th May; 17 on 19th October and 50 on 29th. One to two at eight locations in VC 63 with four at Blacktoft Sands on 4th June and three on 14th. Three at Scout Dyke Res. on 10th August with two parties of three moving through Wintersetts Res. on 23rd.

One or two not infrequently at Swillington Ings in May with six on both 11th and 13th; three on the 22nd when three were also at Eccup Res. Singles also at Eccup Res. on 4th and Hay-a-Park on 18th. In autumn, singles on two occasions at Gouthwaite Res. and on four at Swillington Ings. The only record from VC 65 was of a single at Nosterfield on 1st June.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Few in spring with singles occasionally at Spurn; Kilnsea; Puffin Bog; Hornsea Mere and Swillington Ings. Two at Swillington Ings on 21st May whilst two were at Blacktoft Sands

almost daily from 20th May to 5th June with three on 22nd; 31st May and 1st June; six on 2nd June and seven on the 3rd.

Quite widespread in autumn; Tophill Low Res. reporting good passage with eight on 20th August, 17 the next day then 14 on 23rd decreasing to seven by 26th and one by 31st. Second influx with eight on 5th September; 11 on 6th/7th; ten on 8th decreasing slowly to two on 2nd October. Elsewhere in VC 61; five at Filey Dams on 20th August and four on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 6th September.

The first immature appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 15th August where numbers peaked at 22 on 27th then 15 on 6th September decreasing to one or two throughout October and finally two on 2nd and one on 7th November. Good passage at Broomhill Ings between 21st August and 24th October; one to two being recorded on 28 days in that period but three on occasions with seven on 13th October and four on 16th

Fewer in VC 64 with three at Mickletown Ings on 2nd September; two at Swillington Ings on 28th October and single birds occasionally at both locations and, additionally, Eccup Res. Two at Pallet Hill, VC 65, on 29th September with one from 2nd to 6th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One at Sunk Island on 3rd/4th May (JW); one at Swillington Ings from 9th to 12th (AJR:IAR *et al*); one at Blacktoft Sands on 24th/25th (AG *et al*); two at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 26th (JH *et al*) being also reported from Spurn that same day; one at Broomhill Ings (CN *et al*) and Winterset Res. on 27th and one at Spurn on 30th.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

One at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 28th and 29th July (AG:DRM:TC *et al*). The first record for Yorkshire.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

One at Pallet Hill on 23rd/24th May (RS:NJM); one at Gale Common from 25th July to 1st August with what was considered a different bird there from 6th to 17th August (DRB *et al*). One at Spurn on 9th September (TC *et al*); one at Tophill Low Res. on 19th (JO:AS *et al*) and one at Filey Dams on 22nd September (JMT *et al*).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Few in spring with four at Sunk Island on 18th May on which date one was at Swillington Ings. Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 28th May and at Spurn on 9th and 15th June; this last probably being the bird reported at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on the same date.

Two south at Spurn on 17th July were the first of the autumn after which birds were quite widespread. Two adults at Blacktoft Sands on 21st July, the first there, increasing to 13 on 29th. Immature birds there from 15th August peaking at 58 on 30th thereafter declining to 40 on 2nd September after which small numbers present during that month with the last on 15th October. Tophill Low Res. also reported good passage with the first on 21st July; 20 present on 24th August increasing to 34 on 25th; 46 the following day and 55 on 28th thence decreasing to 43 on 1st September; 27 on 3rd and 11 on 5th; below ten thereafter excepting 12 on 24th. Numbers at Sunk Island had peaks of 26 on 31st August with 25 on 1st September and 20 on 14th whilst on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, 30+ were present during early September but a massive 210+ on 6th (the highest count ever for Yorkshire).

Inland, in VC 63, reported on many days at Broomhill Ings, between 23rd August and 3rd November, usually one or two birds but three on 23rd and 30th August; 14th October and four on 15th September. 32 at Redmires Res. on 27th August (record for the Sheffield area) with seven or eight the following day plus a further 12 flying west on that day. Six at Potteric Carr on 30th whilst four flew south at Winterset Res. on 14th September. In VC 64; eight at Gouthwaite Res. on 22nd August and four on 10th September. At Mickletown Ings, five on 27th August; three on 28th and six on 2nd September. Staveley; five on 23rd August and, occasionally, one or two at Swillington Ings and Hay-a-Park. Ten at Scorton, VC 65, on 22nd August with one or two occasionally at Pallet Hill; Bolton-on-Swale and Cleasby.

11 flew in off the sea at Spurn on 6th September and eight south at Filey on 25th August.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Numbers reported from Filey continue to fall with monthly maxima of 60 in February; 45 in March; 37 in April; up to 11 in May and July; ten in August; 25 during September and October with eight in December. Daily at Flamborough to 26th May and again from 29th September with up to 42 during February and March. Further north at Whitby; 75 on 27th January whilst in Scarborough; 200 on 14th February and 180+ on 4th December. 250 in Cornelian Bay on 24th February. South of Bridlington few noted with four at Barmston on 18th October and five on 19th November. One or two occasionally at Kilnsea and Spurn whilst one at Stone Creek on 1st April.

Inland, in VC 63, singles at Winterset Res. on 30th September and at Ingbirchworth Res. on 14th October.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

No change in breeding status reported from VCs 63 or 64.

The BoEE counts gave the following totals; 6th January, 13,958; 3rd February, 9292; 24th March, 11,831; 21st April, 11,260; 19th May, 8450; 11th August, 9756; 15th September, 15,550; 13th October, 17,902. Monthly maxima at Spurn ranged up to 2000 (February) excepting 5000 on 20th July. Nearby Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea recorded high-tide roosts of 5500 on 27th July and 6000 on 29th. Peaks at Sunk Island during the period January/May varied between 3500 and 4500 with 2900 there on 27th July; 2680 on 9th August then 3200 on 27th October; 6000 on 2nd November but only 600 on 7th December. Maxima at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, during the latter months were; September, 2390; October 2250; November, 3000 and December 3500 whilst at Blacktoft Sands maxima reported were January, 60; February, 100; March, 350; April, 55; May, 120; June, 45; July, 270; August, 280; September, 420; October, 560; November, 410 and December, 330.

Southerly passage along the coast not exceptional with peaks of 549 at Flamborough; 221 at Spurn on 13th July and 230 at the latter on 14th September.

Widespread at inland locations with maxima reported, in VC 61, of 235 on 28th September at Tophill Low Res.; 550 at Wheldrake Ings on 27th February and 430 on the Lower Derwent on 1st March. In VC 63, 75 at Broomhill Ings in early November; 75 flying northwest at Winterset Res. on 29th September; 43 west (in small parties) at Southfield Res. on 28th September and 45 west there on 1st October. Peaks in VC 64 being 71 at Swillington Ings on 29th September; 25 in the Ribble valley on 10th March. In VC 65, 13 at Stapleton Cleasy on 23rd November when 15 were at Bolton-on-Swale.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

One at Ringstone Edge Res. on 18th September (JED).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

During the early months; up to 42 on the Lower Derwent in January and 20 in February whilst up to six were present at Tophill Low Res. during late January/early February and one to three to mid March. Singles at Barmston and Jackson's Bay on 24th February. 57 present along the Lower Derwent in March with 27 in April then up to 15 lekking in early May but none after the first week of that month excepting a lone bird on 24th. Elsewhere, in March, six at Blacktoft Sands on 12th; up to five at Sunk Island from 16th and singles occasionally at Barmston; at Pugneys' C.P. from 10th to 17th; Knotford Nook on the 2nd; Swillington Ings on 19th; Broomhill Ings on 20th and Nosterfield on 30th. Slightly more widespread in April with 13 at Sunk Island on 6th and nine on 13th; then in May; up to seven at Blacktoft Sands and one to three at a further nine locations but four at Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd. Eight at Blacktoft Sands on 4th June otherwise few that month with return passage noted from the last days.

Adults at Blacktoft Sands peaked at 56 on 31st July but immatures were fewer in numbers than last year with 95 on 7th September; 73 present on 23rd October with 56 on 7th November and 34 still present on 4th December. Other locations to record good numbers were Tophill Low Res. with 57 on 25th August; 74 on 28th/29th and 63 on 30th then 40 on 1st September; 21 on 17th; 36 on 25th and 20 on 30th. Up to six then until late November. 34 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 13th September; 42 on the estuary as a whole on 6th September whilst 12 at

Sunk Island on 31st October. 12 at Filey Dams on 7th September. 19 at Thrybergh C.P. on 29th August with eight at Broomhill Ings on 31st August and 8th September.

Few in VC 64 with five at Swillington Ings on 3rd September as maximum and in VC 65, seven at Stapleton on 16th September.

In December, in addition to Blacktoft Sands, up to 12 in the Wheldrake Ings area and one occasionally at Tophill Low Res.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Remains scarce but nevertheless, quite widespread excepting in VC 65. The early months were the poorer with birds at some 27 locations; one or two being the norm but three at Spurn on 2nd February; three at Saltwick Nab on 12th February and four at Edderthorpe on 24th March. The last being seen at Broomhill Ings and Blacktoft Sands in early May (no dates).

The first to return was at Adwick-le-Street on 20th September thereafter one to two at 25 locations. Four at Whitton on 28th October with three on 21st November; four at Woodlesford Brewery (Leeds) on 15th December and seven at Gallows Hill (Knaresborough) on 23rd November with nine there on 1st December.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

A slight decline in breeding numbers in the Derwent valley though no change in the remainder of the York area. Moderate breeding numbers on moorlands and lowlands of VC 63 with only a very few lowland breeding records from VC 64. No breeding records from either VC 62 or VC 65.

During the early months, up to 97 at Filey in January; 70 at Flamborough in February; 120 along the Lower Derwent in late January; 100 at Potteric Carr in February/March and 75 at Broomhill Ings on 31st March. An influx at Tophill Low Res. saw 101 on 27th August with 110 on 10th September and 106 on 19th. Otherwise low numbers in VC 61 during the latter months. In VC 63, 63 at Edderthorpe on 13th September and 47 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th October. Numbers in VC 64 low with 27 at Swillington Ings on 28th August the highest reported. Very few in either VC 62 or VC 65.

16 in off the sea at Spurn on 19th September whilst 16 flew south there on the / 22nd; 23 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 6th October.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Breeding status apparently unchanged but would appear to have fared well with good numbers reported by shooters in several areas during the autumn. An influx into VC 61 during cold weather in February with eight at Spurn on 10th; 15 at Filey on 15th and 38 at Flamborough on 16th. 32 counted at Thornton Ellers on 29th January and up to eight at Winterset Res. during that month.

Autumnal influx low with 14 at Spurn on 26th October and up to ten at several other coastal locations. Nine at Wilsic on 2nd November.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Recorded in all months at Sunk Island with up to eight in January; 28 on 16th February; 13 on 21st April; 42 to the east on 10th August with 46 present on 23rd; 33 on 6th September; 68 on 26th October and 41 on 31st then 79 on 16th November with 95 on 17th, (the largest gathering ever recorded in Yorkshire). Up to nine on the Lower Derwent in spring with the last on 21st May whilst in VC 63; Blacktoft Sands reported six on 9th as the maximum. Light spring passage in VC 64 with three at Swillington Ings on 5th May and four on 10th. Large movement reported from VC 65 with 21 at Nosterfield on 21st April on which date 11 were at Pallet Hill.

In autumn, more widespread with 30 south at Barmston on 5th August; ten south at Spurn on 22nd; seven at Filey on 24th whilst Tophill Low Res. had up to six that month and at least nine on 5th September. 26 at Blacktoft Sands on 14th August with 19 on 7th September then more than usual in October with six on 6th; eight on 12th and 15 on 25th. Regular at Broomhill Ings from mid August to early September with eight on 15th August; four to the southeast at Thrybergh C.P. on 22nd August and seven south at Winterset Res. on 10th September. One or two occasionally at Aldwarke S.F.; Old Denaby and Worsbrough Res.

Slightly more in VC 64 with one or two occasionally at Swillington Ings; Mickletown Ings; Gouthwaite Res. and Staveley. Swillington Ings having nine on 11th August and three on 25th; three at Mickletown Ings on 28th/29th August. Three at Pallet Hill on 1st July with one or two occasionally there; at Leyburn; Masham and Stapleton.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The BoEE counts gave; 6th January, 865; 3rd February, 923; 24th March, 278; 21st April, 169; 19th May, 96; 11th August, 151; 15th September, 158; 24th November, 354 and 15th December, 411. In addition, counts at Sunk Island recorded 629 on 20th January; 723 on 13th February; 310 on 10th March; 135 on 1st April; 275 on 6th September thereafter 130 to 155 as maxima during October/December. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had up to 38 in September with 45 in October; 19 in November and 15 in December. 60 at Hull Docks on 4th May. Blacktoft Sands had nine on 30th April with ten on 12th and 15th May and 15 to the west on 2nd July.

Inland; five west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th July; eight west at Southfield Res. on 24th May; 17 south at Thrybergh C.P. on 6th August; five southwest at Broomhill Ings on 24th July; eight north at Swillington Ings on 7th May and four at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th August.

48 flew south at Spurn on 23rd August with 77 south on 22nd September; 11 at Filey on 7th September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 7th April was the first of the year followed by one at Southfield Res. on 10th. In spring, up to ten at many coastal locations whilst roost numbers at Wheldrake Ings were considered disappointing though 101 were present on 4th May and 73 the following evening. 13 passed Sunk Island on 3rd May with 12 on 5th; 13 on 8th and 19 on 11th. Away from VC 61, very few in spring; one to three being usual though seven northwest over Winterset Res. on 5th May.

Autumn passage at Blacktoft Sands heavier than usual with 183 west between 16th June and 7th September; peak days being 20th July with 34 and 21st with 75. Elsewhere, in VC 63; up to five at 13 locations occasionally during July/August with five west at Broomhill Ings on 28th August and eight at Thrybergh C.P. on 8th September. A similar situation in VC 64 with eight at Chelker Res. on 1st August and eight at Swillington Ings on 28th. Very scarce in VC 65 with five at Bolton-on-Swale on 26th July otherwise two there on 16th August and singles at Pallet Hill on 31st July and Stapleton on 17th July and 16th August.

The main autumnal passage was coastal with 85 off the sea at Spurn on 26th July (see Blacktoft) and 282 south between 4th and 8th September. 274 south at Flamborough in August with peaks of 94 on 4th; 18 that day at Sunk Island; 24 at Filey on 3rd and 26 at Barmston on 5th. A count of the estuary on 11th gave a total of 112.

Last of the year were two at Filey on 18th October.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

An increase in the breeding numbers on the wetlands of the Leeds area otherwise no apparent change in status reported. Good numbers breeding in most moorland sites of VC 63 whilst reported as a widespread breeding species in the York/Derwent areas of VC 61.

The BoEE counts reported; 6th January, 958; 3rd February, 1026; 24th March, 1683; 21st April, 284; 11th August 2080; 15th September, 1702; 13th October, 629; 24th November, 854 and 15th December, 1019. Additionally, 340 at Sunk Island on 29th June; 1500 there on 27th July; 1250 on 10th August thereafter decreasing to 300 - 400 by November/December.

Birds returned to the breeding areas of VCs 63 and 64 in late February being most noticeably though by March when 300 were at Malham Tarn on 23rd. Return movement less pronounced but on the coast 1037 passed Flamborough during August with 199 on 25th though no other location reported large numbers during this month. In VC 65, peak counts at Bolton-on-Swale were 400 on 12th January; 303 on 9th March and 250 on 23rd November.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The two wintering birds at Blacktoft Sands remained until early May being joined by two

passage birds from 30th April to 5th May; the last departing on the 8th. Singles in winter also at Pugneys' C.P. on 26th January; Tophill Low Res. on 27th and Newington on 14th February. Excepting Blacktoft Sands, the only spring birds were singles at Filey Dams on 8th and 12th May; Spurn on 29th and Tophill Low Res. on 7th June.

Autumn passage in VC 61 was poor with one or two birds at seven locations and three at Sunk Island on 10th August. In VC 63, adults appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 29th June peaking with four in late August then immatures peaking with nine on 24th and 28th September and again on 6th October; four remaining into November with three into early December and two to the years' end. Singles at nine other locations in VC 63 with three at Broomhill Ings on 8th October, two there on 22nd August and two at Redmires Res. on 1st September. In VC 64, two at Swillington Ings on 31st August; two on 5th September with three on 12th and two again on 21st. Singles birds not infrequently at that location and occasionally at Mickletown Ings; Eccup Res.; Gouthwaite Res. and finally Hay-a-Park on 23rd November.

The only record from VC 65 was of one at Nosterfield on 10th September.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Breeding status and distribution apparently unchanged but only moderate success at lowland sites in VC 63.

The BoEE counts totalled; 6th January, 1470; 3rd February, 1869; 24th March, 2038; 21st April, 1776; 11th August, 5736; 15th September, 4695; 24th November, 2169 and 15th December, 975. In addition, peaks at Spurn were, 910 on 29th August; 3000 on 12th September and 1000 on 12th /13th October whilst 1100 were on the high tide roost at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea 27th July and 1350 at Haverfield Ponds, Welwick, on 8th September. 420 was the largest count at Sunk Island, on 23rd March whilst further up-river, at Blacktoft Sands, numbers recorded were 'lower than in the past'; monthly maxima being 56 in June; 46 in July; 85 in August; 77 in September and 57 in November.

Along the coast, 150 in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 5th November with the peak at Filey being 92 in January and at Barmston 43 on 29th August. Southerly coastal passage noted in autumn with 1037 passing Flamborough in August; 199 on 25th being the peak whilst at Spurn; 218 on 17th was their maximum.

Away from the coast; maxima were 70 at Wheldrake Ings on 25th February and 58 on 25th December at Tophill Low Res. Otherwise no other location reported more than 40 but 35 north over Eccup Res. on 4th May was unusual.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One over-wintered at Flamborough with one also at Willowgarth, in VC 63, on 20th January. One at Pulfin Bog on 23rd March with the next at Swillington Ings on 2nd April. Reported from then until early June at many locations, invariably single birds, occasionally two, but four at Blacktoft Sands on 29th May.

Widespread in autumn, from the last days of June; in VC 61, ten to 13 at Tophill Low Res. in late July, 18 on 14th August with 23 on 18th. 11 at Fishermans' Channel on 13th and seven at Sunk Island on 18th. Blacktoft Sands, in VC 63, recorded birds from 1st July to 2nd October with 14 on 10th July, 24 on 7th August and then down to five during September. Regularly at Broomhill Ings from 4th July to early October with maxima of seven on 31st August and nine on 4th September.

One to three at 14 locations in VC 64 between 28th June, at Eccup Res., and 17th October at Swillington Ings. Maxima in this VC being seven at Swillington Ings on both 7th and 29th August and five at Mickletown Ings during September.

Present at Bolton-on-Swale on most days between 4th August and 18th September peaking at seven on 22nd August. One to two occasionally at Kilpin Hall; Stapleton and Cleasby.

One bird again wintered at Flamborough.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

The habit of over-wintering continues to increase, both in numbers of birds and of locations used. During the early months reported from five locations in VC 61; seven in VC 63 and one in VC 64. Usually one or two birds at each but four at Pulfin Bog on 3rd March and up to four at

Knostrap S.F. during the period up to 9th March.

During the latter months, reported at three locations in VC 61; one in VC 62; six in VC 63 and one each in VCs 64 and 65. All during this period concerned single birds excepting two each at Knostrap S.F.; Haxby; Laytham and Broomhill Ings.

Spring passage very light with nowhere reporting more than two birds.

In autumn very large numbers at Tophill Low Res. where 11 were present on 5th July increasing to 30 by 24th; 46 on 30th then 59 on 4th August peaking at 63 on 7th then declining to 51 on 16th; 36 on 23rd and 13 on 1st September with the last two on 23rd October. Nine at Pulfen Bog on 24th August. 12 at Filey Dams on 14th and 12 at Fishermans' Channel on 12th. Four at Wykeham G.P. on 20th July the highest count in VC 62 whilst in VC 63, Blacktoft Sands had a record autumn with eight present by 30th June; 21 on 27th July peaking at 32 by the 4th August and then up to 15 to 6th September. Numbers at Broomhill Ings had reached 12 by the end of July; ten or more on 20 days during August with a peak of 20 on 30th then 18 in early September decreasing thereafter but six still present on 24th October. Up to ten at both Denaby Ings and Thorpe Marsh in August and five at Old Denaby on 7th.

Four at Knostrap S.F., VC 64, on 31st July being the highest count for that VC with three at Farnham G.P.; Gouthwaite Res.; High Batts N.R. and Swillington Ings on that same date.

Five on 17th July at Stapleton was the maximum reported in VC 65 with four at Bolton-on-Swale on two dates.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Good spring passage with record numbers at Blacktoft Sands where birds were present daily from 24th May to 16th June with five on 27th May; seven on 28th and nine on the 30th then five on 1st June and one or two until 16th. Three at Winterset Res. on 30th May; three at Filey Dams on 1st July with singles at a further 12 locations.

Almost as widespread in autumn though in lesser numbers; usually single birds but two at five locations and three at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd August; four from 4th to 6th with five on the 7th whilst four were at Blacktoft Sands on this last date.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Over 35 pairs reported breeding in the Halifax/Huddersfield/Barnsley and Sheffield areas with ten pairs along the Swale between Great Langton and Ellerton (about four miles). No comments otherwise received.

Singles at Swinsty Res. during January/February; at Givendale (VC 64) from 15th to 21st January; the Rother Valley C.P. in January and at Eccleshall Woods in February.

The first was at Redmires Res. on 23rd March followed by singles at Swillington Ings on 28th and Farnham G.P. on 29th. Most arrived during the second/third week of April though did not reach the higher ground until early May. Peaks in spring were 16 at Gouthwaite Res. in May with ten at High Batts N.R. on 19th. 22 at Grimwith Res. on 29th June. 30 were at Gouthwaite Res. in July with 19 there in August whilst at Tophill Low Res. a sudden influx brought 36 on 30th July but back to less than ten the following day. Most had left by early October but late birds were at Denaby Ings on 30th; Edderthorpe on 4th November and Thrybergh C.P. on the 16th.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

One, seen in display flight, at Welbeck Sand Quarry, near Wakefield, between 30th June and 7th July was also apparently protecting three young which flew on 4th (PS *et al*).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

BoEE counts gave; 6th January, 139; 3rd February, 331; 24th March, 180; 21st April, 65; 19th May, 61; 11th August, 438; 15th September, 364; 13th October, 156; 24th November, 262 and 15th December, 222. Maxima at Spurn being 178 on 18th August and 289 on 8th September whilst Sunk Island had 107 on 18th May and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge seven on 6th September. Further north along the coast, Whitby reported 145 on 20th January; Scarborough 50 on 10th November; Filey, 171 in April; Flamborough, 250 on 11th August and Barmston 60 on 24th February.

Inland, occasionally at Tophill Low Res. with five on 18th August and four on 6th September; three at Wheldrake Ings on 28th May. In VC 63, reported between April and November from 11 locations, usually one or two birds but three at Southfield Res. on 21st August; four at Blacktoft Sands on 31st August; five at Blacktoft on 11th June and Southfield Res. on 15th November with six at Redmires Res. on 25th August and eight at Blacktoft Sands on 28th August.

In spring, in VC 64, one at Swillington Ings on 4th May with two on 7th; three on 12th then one on 13th. Singles in autumn at four locations. Singles in VC 65 at Bolton-on-Swale in both spring and autumn and at Cleasby in autumn.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two females at Blacktoft Sands on 15th June with another female on 18th/19th (AG *et al.*).

An immature three miles out from Flamborough on 1st August (AG); singles at Haverfield Ponds on 1st October (RL:PS *et al.*); Scalby Mills on 11th October (RHA) and south at Flamborough on 19th (PAL:DIMW:PJW). Juvenile at Filey Dams from 3rd to 6th November and one at the Brigg from 23rd November to 2nd December (BN:HJW *et al.*)

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Singles at Flamborough on 17th (MN) and 19th October (PAL:AG:JCL:RJW) and at Barmston on 20th (PP).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One at Flamborough on 16th February. In May, two on 14th, one on 18th/19th; two on 25th and one on 27th. Three at Hornsea on 17th July with nine at Flamborough on eight dates in August then 154 during September with 24 on 12th and 25 on 28th. 281 in October, peaks being 60 on 18th and 165 on 19th then 32 on six days in November with 25 on 5th. Recorded on six days during September at Filey with ten on 8th and four on 29th; at Barmston, one on 16th May with two on 17th; one on 22nd July then on six days in September with 17 on 28th; three on 19th October and six on 19th November. Only recorded during September at Scarborough with two on 4th; four on 5th; two on 6th; two on 8th; six on both 11th and 28th with four on 29th whilst Spurn had singles on seven days during August/September with five on 11th September; four on 28th and two on 29th.

Away from the coast; one west at Sunk Island on 24th September and one at Trent Falls (Blacktoft) on 20th October.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Small numbers during spring after the first on 19th April at Barmston. Five at Flamborough on 20th; 38 there during May with ten on 7th whilst Spurn had 15 during that month with seven on 24th. Two at Spurn on 3rd June.

Main autumnal passage occurred in August/September with 1160 during the former at Flamborough where peak counts were 155 on 18th; 105 on 24th; 268 on 25th and 149 on 26th. Peak passage at Spurn in this month was between 16th and 18th with 112; 147 and 57 on the three days. Larger numbers in September with 174 south at Scarborough on 5th; 261 at Flamborough and 70 at Spurn on 6th with 76 at the latter on 7th and 108 on the 8th; 343 at Flamborough on 11th then on 28th; 40 at Scarborough and 70 at Barmston. Few in October with a total of 115 at Flamborough of which 20 were on the 5th and 21 on 18th whilst at Spurn, 18 passed on the 11th and 17 on 19th. The last birds along the coast were at Spurn on 10th November and Barmston on 19th on which date 11 unidentified skuas were seen at Spurn.

Not infrequently along the Humber at Sunk Island with four on 23rd August and eight west on 31st; three west on 8th September but 32 west on 29th of which 11 later returned to the east. An immature at Blacktoft Sands on this last date. Inland, in VC 63; two west at Old Deanby on 3rd June and two immatures west at Warley Moor Res. on 29th August.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult flew northwest over Dob Park on 28th April (TK).

One at Flamborough on 6th July then singles on four days in August plus four on 20th. A total of 466 during September with 15 on 5th; 170 on 6th; 54 on 7th; 34 on 8th; 24 on 9th; 80 on 11th

and 12 on 12th (PAL:BR:MN:PJW:AG:JMcL *et al*). Far fewer at other locations with 13 at Scarborough on 5th (RHA) and 15 at Staithes on the 8th; three at Filey and seven at Barmston on 6th (SC:PMS:CCT:PP *et al*); five at Filey and 11 at Spurn on 7th (REH:DJS:PMS:MJT:DM:DP). 17 at Hornsea on 11th with 45 there on 27th (TDC:SLJ *et al*); ten at Scarborough (RHA); 13 at Barmston (PP) and 66 at Hornsea (TDC:SLJ:BR:WFC *et al*) on 28th (but only one at Flamborough) then seven at Skipsea (VAL) and nine at Hornsea the following day.

516 at Flamborough in October with 20 on the 18th and 485 on the 19th (the highest documented count for Yorkshire) (PAL:MN:PJW *et al*) with very few being reported elsewhere during that month. During early September birds were noted flying inland from Bridlington Bay with 21 doing so on 7th at Wiltshire and three the following day (SCM) on which date six were also seen at Fraithorpe and four at Bridlington (PD:DEM). Considering this movement few were then reported inland with an adult at Broomhill Ings on 7th September (NWA) being seen minutes later at Worsbrough Res. (GL). An immature at Broomhill Ings on 21st September (DM *et al*) and an immature to the northeast over Winterset Res. on the 28th (DG:PLM:GJS).

An adult west at Sunk Island on 7th September (JW) and adult north over Patrington on the 6th (DJB) were the only records from the estuary area.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Singles at Flamborough on 7th January; 10th February; 17th; 23rd and 24th March then 13th April with seven on the 20th. 11 during May; three in June and 13 in July. Elsewhere, singles at Spurn on 14th April; 1st June and 26th July and at Barmston on 17th April; 5th May and two on 3rd June.

28 at Flamborough in August with 18 on 11th then 194 during September when peak counts were 31 on 6th and 67 on 28th whilst 43 were recorded in October with 15 on 18th and 14 on 19th. Eight on 5th November; singles on 1st and 27th December with four on 24th.

80 south at Filey on 29th September (TIC:JH *et al*). Maxima at other locations were; Spurn, ten on 8th September; Barmston, ten on 19th November and Scarborough, seven on 5th November.

The only records away from the coast were at Sunk Island with one west on 23rd August; one east on 29th September and two west on 19th October.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

In VC 61; two at Flamborough on 5th April and 5th October with three at Barmston on 17th October (PP). All other records being of single birds; at Spurn, on 13th June; 14th July; 27th September and 3rd November; Kilnsea on 16th July; Easington on 2nd/3rd November; Barmston on 23rd March; 3rd July; 26th July; 13th and 25th September. Flamborough on 7th, 9th, 20th April; 12th May; 24th August; 19th September and 11th November. Filey on 16th February; 2nd July; 23rd September; 1st, 2nd and 6th October. Away from the coast; at Sunk Island on 7th September; Hessle on 24th September and Tophill Low Res. on 21st April with a different individual on 26th.

In VC 62; at Whitby on 1st December; Scarborough/Scalby on 26th July; 4th and 17th September and 1st November.

In VC 63; two first winter birds at Winterset Res. on 4th January otherwise all records were of single birds; at Broomhill Ings on 17 occasions between 3rd January and 24th February (considered to be one of the birds seen at Winterset on 4th), also reported from Worsbrough Res. on 6th January. Winterset Res. on 5th; 8th and 12th January (this last possibly a third individual); 19th February, an adult with another adult on 23rd. Blackmoorfoot Res.; 4th January; 9th to 11th March; Old Denaby; 23rd May; Blacktoft Sands, 5th July and 25th October; Scout Dyke Res., 1st October and Winterset Res. again on 20th November with a different bird from 24th to 31st December

In VC 64; an adult at Knotford Nook on 5th January; Otley Weir on 13th and possibly the same bird at Eccup Res. on 15th; 1st winter at Knotford Nook on 10th and Swillington Ings on 15th January. Adults at Eccup Res. on 17th February and 1st March; 1st winter at Swillington Ings on 20th and 22nd February; 10th March; two 1st winter birds east at Swillington Ings on 9th May. An adult at Eccup Res. on 20th October and then regularly from 15th December.

Addition to the 1990 Report: A first-winter near Potteric Carr on 24th March.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

Addition to the 1983 Report:

Single to the east at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 5th September (TED).

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*

A second summer bird to the north at Flamborough on 11th August (DB:BH:PAL:MN:PJW *et al.*). An adult at Bolton-on-Swale/Scorton from 7th November to the 6th December (RT:NJM:SG) and an adult at Thrybergh C.P. on 8th December (EAF:DAP).

An adult at Holmpton on 3rd September (JED) was not accepted by the BBRC.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

A poor year particularly in the absence of records from Hornsea Mere.

One to three occasionally along the coast during the early months with few until early summer excepting 17 south at Filey on 27th April. 20 at Barmston on 30th July; 30+ on Hornsea beach on 22nd August and 16 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 27th July being the maxima apart from 38 passing Flamborough on 15th September and 31 north at Spurn on 27th October.

Few inland in VC 61 with three at Tophill Low Res. on 5th July as the highest count. In VC 63; two at Winterset Res. on 11th; 27th April and 10th September; two at Southfield Res. on 21st and 28th May otherwise singles at Pugneys' C.P. on 25th April; 7th May; 5th and 6th August; at Blacktoft Sands 14th/15th and 28th May; 7th June; 20th August; at Ingbirchworth Res. 7th May; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th June and 29th October; Winterset Res. on 17th August remaining to the 25th then 4th/5th and 29th September; Southfield Res. on 19th August and 8th October; Thrybergh C.P. 12th September; 12th October and Howbrook on 3rd November.

In VC 64; two at Hay-a-Park on 24th September otherwise singles at Swillington Ings on 6th January; 28th April and 6th May; at Eccup Res. on 10th August and 24th September. Singles in VC 65 at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th August; Nosterfield on 30th May and 17th September.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A first summer bird north at Barmston on 1st May (PP). Adult at Flamborough on 3rd August; adult south at Spurn on 27th August (DG:CPM:MGN); an adult at Filey Brigg on 6th September (SC:SJJ:CCT) with an adult and juvenile at Barmston that same day (PP). Juvenile at Flamborough on the 8th and Filey on 11th (PMS:AW:HJW) when an adult was at Barmston (PP). Two birds at Flamborough on 12th with one on 15th; 22nd/23rd; 25th and 26th (PAL:JCL:BR:MN:BH:PJW *et al.*) which may have been the same bird. Two at Hornsea on 28th (TDC:WFC:SLJ *et al.*).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Bred in VC 61 at Wheldrake Ings and attempted to breed at Skipwith. No reports from Strensall, in VC 62, whilst in VC 63; 234 incubating birds at Old Denaby on 4th May; 200 pairs present at Thorne Moors on 26th May with 25 pairs at Potteric Carr; three/four pairs at Methley and one pair each at Pugneys' C.P. and Horbury Wyke.

In VC 64; 30 to 35 pairs at Knostrop S.F. and 'thousands of pairs' at Upper Barden Res. with about 13 pairs at Mickleton Ings. 450 pairs at Summerlodge Tarn, VC 65, (no other moorland tarns were counted) and 40 nests at Nosterfield.

Many locations reported large numbers of up to 10,000 with higher counts of 30,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd March; 10,000 at Sunk Island on 10th September; 10,000 during September at Tophill Low Res. with 13,400 in October; 14,500 in November and 11,000 in December. 10,000 at Blacktoft Sands during October/November; 15,000 at Southfield Res. in February with 10,000 during October and December. In VC 64, Eccup Res. reported 15,000 in January/February; 17,500 in December whilst 20,000 were at Swillington Ings on 20th February and in VC 65, 18,000 at Bolton-on-Swale in January and 14,000 in December.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

A second winter bird at Swillington Ings on 21st February (PRM); an adult at Ingbirchworth Res. on 24th April (NEP); a first winter bird at Swillington Ings on 24th December being reported the same day from nearby Newsam Green Tip (JMCL:JCL) and a second winter bird at

Low Moor Tip on 27th (NER). One at Leighton Res. on 26th December (RT).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

In VC 61; by far the largest gatherings were reported from Tophill Low Res. where winter monthly maxima were; January, 12,000; February, 8500; March, 10,000; October, 11,500; November, 10,500 and December, 17,000. Other locations having large numbers were Sunk Island with 1000 on 13th January; 23rd February, 2500; 2nd March, 2000; 1st April, 1500; 8th September, 1200 and 29th October, 3000. 1000 at Wheldrake Ings on 19th January.

1500 between Helmsley and Rievaulx, VC 62, on 9th March with 600 there on 30th.

In VC 63; the only location to hold 1000 was Winterset Res. with that number roosting there at both ends of the year. 550 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd November; 380 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th November with maxima of 200 to 250 at Langsett Res.; Pugneys' C.P. and Broomhill Ings. Large gatherings were reported in VC 64 at Eccup Res. with 5000 in January; 4000 on 15th February with this level being maintained to early March thence declining to 1000 on 23rd. 1000+ at Swillington Ings on 15th February. 600 at Eccup Res. on 11th August increasing to 1150 by 31st; 3500 on 24th September; 4000+ during October then 5500 in late November with 6500 on 8th December. 400 at Swillington Ings during December being the only other gathering of any size in this VC.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

No records received concerning the breeding colony at Upper Barden Res.

Unusually large numbers at Tophill Low Res. in autumn with 112 on 16th September increasing to 217 on 22nd then 636 on 23rd and 817 on 24th thereafter decreasing to 260 on 1st October and 171 on 25th. Elsewhere, 112 at Sunk Island on 31st August with 165 the following day; 53 at Flamborough on 25th May whilst 107 in August was the maximum at Spurn.

Very scarce in VC 62 with eight at Burton Riggs G.P. (a site record) on 16th May and 42 at Brandsby on 14th September. Numbers low in VC 63 with maxima of 1590 on Thorne Moors on 30th July; 1200 at Broadstones Res. on 12th September; 930 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd October; 650 at Langsett Res. on 20th September and a similar count at Southfield Res. during that month. 600 at Winscar on 14th August; 500 at Felkirk on 26th May and same number at Winterset Res. on 12th August.

Low numbers in VC 64 during the winter months rising in spring to 200+ at Swillington Ings in late March then 400+ by 20th April; 450 in that area on 8th June peaking at 650 on 17th August then down to 350 on 11th October and 30 by mid November. Maxima elsewhere were 127 at Eccup Res. on 31st March with 273 on 8th October; 160 at Mickletown Ings on 8th March and 150 at Malham Tarn on 6th September.

The autumn passage at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, was much lighter than usual peaking at 368 on 22nd September. 688 at Nosterfield on 24th February whilst on 20th, a co-ordinated count at Leighton Res., Masham G.P. and Nosterfield gave a total of 1340.

Birds demonstrable attributable to the race *L.f.intermedius* quite widespread but usually in small numbers though 23 at Flamborough on 6th May and 22 on 26th whilst one to three occasionally at Spurn; Tophill Low Res.; Puffin Bog and Barmston. In VC 63; seven in the Rother Valley C.P. on 11th June with six at Broomhill Ings on 16th August, otherwise one to three occasionally at Blackmoorfoot Res.; Ingbirchworth Res.; Broadstones Res. Whitley Common; Broomhill Ings and Old Denaby. A similar situation in VC 64 where up to five were at Eccup Res. in the early months and up to seven during the latter; up to 11 in the Swillington Ings/Newsome Green Tip area in March/April and six in autumn.

Birds attributable to the race *L.f.fuscus* were scarcer with singles at Barmston on 7th March; Filey on 24th May and Flamborough on 30th July. In VC 63; two at Blacktoft Sands on 20th April; two at Redmires Res. on 16th September; two at Scout Dyke Res. on 9th December and one at Royd Moor Res. on 9th December.

These two races not differentiated at Spurn where one or two occasionally reported nor at Tophill Low Res. where 30 were reported on 23rd September.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

No records received concerning breeding numbers.

Counts in VC 61 low with peaks of 500 at Filey in February and October; 950 at Flamborough on 8th April; 750 in one hour passing Barmston on 16th February and 850 west at Sunk Island on 23rd February where usually less than 300.

1000, all adults at Cayton Carrs on 1st May being the only count of note in VC 62 whilst in VC 63 maxima were, 3000 at Winterset Res. on 8th and 12th June; 2500 there on 31st December. 3139 at Langsett Res. on 29th December and 1598 at Broomhead Res. on 27th December. Swillington Ings held by far the largest numbers in VC 64 with 7000 in early January rising to 3000 by 19th then 4000-5000 on 16th February thence decreasing to 1500 by the 10th March and 300 on 20th April. 600 there on 16th November had risen to 2000 by 14th December. Maxima elsewhere were 600 at Eccup Res. on 27th December; 500 at Farnham G.P. from January to early March and 200 at Mickletown Ings on 3rd March. 1300 at Bolton-on-Swale, VC 65, on 9th February with 1250 on 19th December.

Birds of one of the Yellow-legged races *L.a.cachinnans* or *L.a.michahelis* are becoming more widespread (or reported more often). In VC 61, singles at Spurn on 13th June; 14th and 15th July; 8th and 31st August; 14th and 27th September with two on 11th and 24th August; 8th September and four on both 16th August and 13th September.

Singles at Flamborough on 8th September; 16th and 18th October. In VC 62, at Scarborough in January whilst in VC 63, two at Redmires Res. on 6th October with singles at Broomhill Ings on 15th and 17th August; Broadstones Res. (thought to be *michahelis*) on 15th October; Southfield Res. on 3rd September; Winterset Res. on 12th October and 1st November; Monkton Tip on 30th December; Redmires Res. in late July and August and at Blackmoorfoot Res. (thought to be *michahelis*) on 11th; 25th and 26th August.

In VC 64, singles at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds on 10th March; Swillington Ings on 24th June and Gouthwaite Res. on 15th September and 7th October. Singles in VC 65, all at Bolton-on-Swale, on 24th August; 2nd September and 1st October.

One, considered to be of the race *L.a.heuglini*, (large, very dark back) was at Tophill Low Res. on 20th and 23rd October (IL:RL) with one, possibly the same, at Easington on 28th (GED). A very dark mantled individual was at Methley G.P. on 17th February.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

Again scarcer along the coast than inland. In VC 61, a 3rd winter bird at Easington on 5th January; adult at Hornsea on 20th. Adult at Flamborough on 13th February and 1st winter on 23rd, this possibly the 1st winter bird seen at Filey on the 21st and 25th. A 3rd winter at Spurn on 6th March with a 2nd year bird there on 26th whilst a 1st summer bird was at Barmston on 29th. 2nd summer at Filey Dams on 22nd April and 1st year at Flamborough on 28th. Adult at Flamborough on 16th/17th November and a 1st winter bird at Barmston on 20th.

In VC 62; at least three birds, possibly four (one adult; one (or two) 1st winters and one 2nd winter) in the Scarborough/Scalby Mills areas frequently between 20th January and 24th April.

In the Barnsley area, VC 63, possibly ten individuals with three others elsewhere. During January; at Pugneys' C.P., 1st winter on 10th; Woodhouse Tip, 1st winter on 20th; Southfield Res. 1st winter on 2nd; Winterset Res. 1st winter on 11th/12th/13th; Ardsley Res., 1st winter on 25th; Broomhill Ings, 1st winter on 12th; Blackmoorfoot Res. 3rd winter on 25th. In February; Ardsley Res., 1st winter on 5th; Pugneys' C.P. 1st winter on 6th/7th 12th-14th; Broomhill Ings, 1st winter on 9th. In March; Pugneys' C.P.; 1st winter on 1st; 2nd winter on 4th, 8th, 13th (two birds), 14th/15th and 18th; Ardsley Res., 2nd winter on 2nd; Southfield Res. 1st winter on 4th; Monkton Tip, 2nd winter on 5th/6th (this bird remaining in the Barnsley area until 4th May), 1st winter on 7th; Stairfoot, 1st winter on 3rd and 2nd winter on 8th and 10th; Carlton Marsh, 1st winter on 5th; Winterset Res., four birds (three 1st winter, one 2nd winter) on 5th and in April, a 2nd winter bird at Potteric Carr. Scarcer during the latter months being recorded only in December at Winterset Res.; an adult on 25th with 1st winter on 25th, 28th/29th; Monkton Tip; adult on 30th; Elland G.P., adult on 23rd and Old Denaby, 1st winter on 29th.

In VC 64, a very good year although all records were from the first half of the year. The pale adult frequently reported in the Swinsty Res/Eccup Res./Knotford Nook was present until 2nd April. The Swillington Ings/Newsam Green Tip/Leventhorpe Ash Ponds area had at least nine individuals and possibly as many as 15. In January; two different 1st winter birds; one 2nd winter and one adult with three together on 20th; in February; one 1st winter; one 2nd winter and

the adults frequently seen whilst in March; two 1st winters; one 1st summer and two adults. Three birds often seen together with five on 23rd. In April; two 1st summers and one 2nd summer with one 1st summer individual remaining to 6th May. Away from the Aire valley; 1st winter birds at Farnham G.P. on 26th January; Staveley on 30th; Farnham from 2nd to 9th February with two on 25th and another on 26th.

The only record in VC 65 was of a 1st summer bird at Nosterfield from 22nd to 25th April and again on 6th May.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Three at Flamborough on 1st January with two on 17th February and one on 16th March. Singles at Barmston on 17th February and 16th March involved the Flamborough birds. Adults at Sunk Island on 5th/6th January; 1st summer bird at Filey on 9th August. From 20th October at least three 1st winter birds along the coast of VC 61; being at Flamborough regularly with three on 11th November. Single adults at Barmston on 29th October and at Spurn on 10th October and 9th November.

In VC 62; 3rd winter at Whitby from 20th to 27th January whilst at least three birds (one adult and two 1st winters) in the Scarborough area between 1st January and 27th February. An adult there between 9th and 27th November with a 2nd winter at Burniston on 27th December.

In VC 63; one at Blacktoft Sands; three at Ardsley Res. and at least ten in the Barnsley area. During January; 1st winter birds at Monkton Tip from 2nd to 4th and 11th; at Ardsley Res. on 6th with another on 27th/28th; Winterset Res., 13th to 26th; Pugneys' C.P.; 7th, 9th and 29th; adults at Pugneys' C.P. on 26th; Broomhill Ings on 25th (roosting at Winterset on 25th/26th). In February; 1st winters at Pugneys' C.P.; 4th, 7th and 22nd; Broomhill Ings on 3rd with the same bird at Winterset Res. from 6th to 13th and another on 16th. 1st summer at Broomhill Ings on 23rd, and an adult at Monkton Tip on 4th. During March; 1st winter at Winterset Res. from 2nd to 4th (same bird as February 6th to 13th); 2nd winter at Pugneys' C.P.; 4th/5th, 9th, 13th to 15th and 18th and at Winterset Res. on 3rd.

In December; 1st winter at Broomhill Ings on 29th; Monkton Tip on 30th; Ardsley Res. on 25th and Winterset Res. from 29th to 31st. 3rs winter at Potteric Carr on 27th with an adult at Broomhill Ings from 25th to 31st roosting at Winterset Res. An immature at Blacktoft Sands on 31st.

In VC 64; a 1st winter bird at Eccup Res. on 18th; Swillington Ings on 20th and 22nd January; 16th February and 24th March. One at Farnham G.P. on 18th February. 2nd winter at Swillington Ings on 5th and Mickletown Ings on 8th. 1st winter at Swillington Ings on 9th November. Adult there on 18th and 22nd December also being reported from Eccup Res. on the latter date.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Slightly higher counts along the coast than in 1990 with up to 300 at Spurn between September and November plus southerly passage peaking at 322 on 16th September; 272 on 21st; 250 on 17th October and 260 on 2nd November. 1640 on 14th September being the peak at Flamborough whilst Barmston reported 436 south in two and a half hours the following day and 236 south in one hour on 17th December. Maxima inland at Tophill Low Res. were 670 in January; 440 February; 340 November and 600 in December. 200 at Sunk Island on 26th September.

By far the largest numbers in VC 63 were reported from Winterset Res. with 1000 on 8th January and 31st December; 600 at Ardsley Res. during late December. Other peaks reported were 450 at Blacktoft Sands on 12th October; 420 at Pugneys' C.P. on 3rd November and 420 in January at Southfield Res. Up to 150 occasionally at Broomhead Res.; Langsett Res. and Blackmoorfoot Res.

The Swillington Ings/Newsam Green Tip area of VC 64 held 500 until the freeze up in February when 1000+ were present on 9th decreasing to 450 on 10th March. 250 there on 16th November increasing to 500+ on 14th December and 700+ on 28th. 425 at Eccup Res. on 29th December being the only other large gathering but 40 at Malham Tarn on 6th January, though not large by county standards, was significant locally.

Only Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, held any numbers with 350 on 9th February and 250 on 8th November.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

No records received from Bempton R.S.P.B Reserve. 1308 nests on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 12th June being a decrease from 1511 last year.

Common along the coast with heavy passage frequently past Flamborough with a peak of 52,000 on 21st July. 1480 per hour south at Filey on 16th March.

Away from the coast, small numbers, up to ten, frequently at Sunk Island with 18 flying east there on 7th April; 50, in two flocks, west at the Humber Bridge on 26th March. Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 6th January and 8th June. One inland record in VC 62, at Castle Howard on 16th January concerning a live 1st winter bird and a dead adult. In VC 63; 14 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th March with eight on 26th May and six on 27th. Eight at Thrybergh C.P. on 17th May and six at Edderthorpe on 28th March. One to two occasionally at a further nine locations in the periods January to June; at two locations in November and one; at Broomhill Ings on 28th December.

In VC 64; an adult at Swillington Ings on 6th January after storms. Seven at Farnham G.P. on 23rd February. Noted at several locations between 16th March and 18th May, usually one to three birds but 13 adults at Swillington Ings on 7th May. One to two birds occasionally in autumn/winter at four locations but four at Swillington Ings on 29th September. Singles at Farnham G.P. on 22nd December and Gouthwaite Res. on 26th.

Four records from VC 65; two at Nosterfield on 8th April with singles there on 28th September and Scorton on 10th November.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nolitica*

Single bird off Hornsea on 13th July (DRM).

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

One flew south at Filey on 24th August. (PRB:SC:AS:CCT). The third record for Yorkshire. (The first being at South Gare on 18th/19th June 1984 and at Redcar on 20th – all locations being in Cleveland but within the historic boundaries of Yorkshire).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

The first of the year were at Flamborough on 24th and 29th March becoming widespread by the third week of April with 90 there on 20th. In May, 166 at Flamborough on 25th with 49 at Barmston on the 5th. Autumn passage in late July with 1244 north at Barmston on 31st and 319 at Flamborough whilst Spurn reported 400 on 26th, on which date 800 were roosting at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea. A total of 7311 counted at Flamborough during August with a peak of 2134 on 18th; 1000 north at Barmston on 28th; 302 north at Filey on 18th with 544 on 25th whilst, at Spurn, maxima were 1592 on 5th; 1000 on 7th; 1200 on 10th and 1270 on 16th. 4195 passed Flamborough during September with 725 on 6th; peak at Spurn in that month being 620 on 16th. Small numbers from late September into October with the latest at Spurn on 18th; Flamborough on 19th; Barmston on 20th; Filey on 26th; Sunk Island on 28th and Scarborough on 5th November.

Regularly at Sunk Island with 13 east on 27th April and 53 west on 23rd August. Occasionally in VC 63 with two at Pugneys' C.P. on 12th April and one on 13th; one at Winterset Res. on 15th May; five at Southfield Res. on 28th and one at Blacktoft Sands on 29th; two there on both 7th and 15th June; one at Broomhill Ings on 8th July with two on 16th September; two at Redmires Res. on 21st August.

The only record from VC 64 concerned two at Knostrop S.F. on 26th May.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Singles adults at Flamborough on 19th May (PAL *et al*); Barmston on 31st May; 11th June and 13th July (PP) and Filey on 20th July (AN). Two adults south at Flamborough on 13th August with one north on 15th. Juvenile south at Spurn on 23rd; adult at Flamborough on 26th with two at Barmston on 28th (PP). Adult at Scalby Mills on 2nd September (RHA); an adult and juvenile at Flamborough on both 12th and 26th September.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

One at Thrybergh C.P. on 11th April was the first then Swillington Ings on 26th; Farnham G.P. and Flamborough on 28th and Nosterfield on 29th. Well distributed in May but numbers generally low with 104 at Flamborough on 21st as peak. Inland, ten at Southfield Res. on 2nd; ten at Swillington Ings on 12th; 11 at Winterset Res. on 18th and, at Tophill Low Res., 19 on 24th with 24 on 31st.

Breeding occurred in VC 63 at Pugneys' C.P. with five pairs, of which four reared eight young; maximum at this locations being 30 during May; Worsbrough Res.; one pair two young; Broomhill Ings; one pair, two young with one fledging. In VC 64; four pairs present at Farnham G.P. with two breeding (no further details) and five pairs rearing 13 young at Swillington Ings.

In autumn; 4287 were counted passing Flamborough during August with peaks of 550 on 24th; 690 on 25th and 1005 on 26th. Peaks at Barmston being 224 on 12th; 316 on 27th and 347 on 28th. Filey reported a very poor year with a maximum count of 28 north on 4th. In September; 1039 off Flamborough with 197 on 8th as the peak whilst Barmston recorded 49 on 4th.

Inland; 19 (18 west, one south) recorded in one hour at Redmires Res. on 22nd July; 35 west at Blacktoft Sands on 31st and 12 at Winterset Res. on 12th August.

The last to be reported were two at Barmston and one at Edderthorpe on 17th October with one at Flamborough on 22nd.

Not distinguished from Arctic Tern at Spurn where all were logged as '*commics*'; the first being on 15th and 16th April; the last, three, on 19th October with maxima of 1000 on 9th August; 2400 on 15th; 10,000 on 23rd and 5000 on 24th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

First at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th April then Barmston on 7th; Blacktoft Sands on 9th with two at Thrybergh C.P. on 12th and Barmston again on 14th. Quite widespread, albeit in small numbers, by the latter days of the month and early May. Eight at Southfield Res. on 26th April; 25 east at Sunk Island on 27th; seven at Broomhill Ings on 30th when 29 were at Wheldrake Ings. In May; 58 on 4th at Flamborough with 19 east at Sunk Island; 12 at Tophill Low Res.; 11 at both Winterset Res. and Broomhill Ings whilst 22 (combined?) were at Pugneys' C.P. 13 at Winterset Res. on 5th when 25 were at Broomhill Ings; on 6th, 82 at Tophill Low Res.; 31 at Thrybergh C.P.; 36 at Blacktoft Sands. On 7th; 233 flew east at Sunk Island; 64 at Thrybergh C.P.; 71 at Southfield Res. and 36 at Pugneys' C.P.

Few in June or July then 230 during August at Flamborough with maxima of 37 on both 18th and 24th with 50 on 26th. 70 there during September with 36 on 20th and then 40 in October when the peak was 22 on 17th with the last on 21st. One at Thrybergh C.P. on 2nd November being the last to be reported.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Five at Spurn and eight at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea, on 24th April were the first. 16 at Spurn on 30th April then daily there to the 11th August with up to 40 occasionally. Recorded similarly at Kilnsea/Easington with a maximum there of 94 in late June.

Bred successfully at Spurn for the first time since 1960, though has attempted to do so in 12 intervening years. Six pairs laid at the Point; two pairs rearing two young each; one deserted; two hatched two young each of which one died and the other three were probably taken by a Merlin. The sixth lost eggs to a Fox.

At Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea/Easington Lagoons the first breeding attempt was abandoned owing to adverse, cold, windy weather. The second attempt resulted in 27 pairs laying eggs but many were taken by a family party of Carrion Crows and this, together with another spell of adverse weather, resulted in the abandonment of the whole colony. A third attempt was made by nine pairs resulting in eight chicks hatching, five being taken by a female Merlin after which the colony deserted.

Very few were recorded along the coast away from the breeding areas with two at Scarborough on 11th September being the only record from VC 62. Likewise, few seen inland, with in VC 63; one in the Rother Valley C.P. on 14th May; two at Blacktoft Sands on 30th May; one there on 1st June with three on 18th. Two at Broomhill Ings on 24th June; one at Southfield

Res. on 13th May and five on 5th July. One at Swillington Ings, VC 64, on 13th May.
The last birds were two at Thrybergh C.P. and five at Sunk Island on 15th September.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Singles at Pugneys' C.P. and Spurn with six at Silsden Res. on 25th April; three at Hornsea Mere and one at Tophill Low Res. on 26th then two at Blacktoft Sands on 28th. One to five at nine locations in May until an influx at the months' end with four at Tophill Low Res. on 28th then, on 29th, 12 at Blacktoft Sands with, the following day; 16 at Blacktoft; 11 at Pugneys' C.P.; 12 at Eccup Res.; five at Hay-a-Park; three at Bolton-on-Swale and 38 at Spurn. On the 31st; 11 at Spurn; five remaining at Hay-a-Park; nine at Pugneys' C.P. and 13 at Blacktoft Sands. On the 1st June; ten at Blacktoft; nine at Pugneys' C.P. and six at Hay-a-Park.

Few then until late July/August when seven were at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st July with seven at Tunstall on 11th August otherwise one to two birds at 16 locations though occasionally up to four at Spurn during August. One or two occasionally at nine locations during September with up to four at Flamborough between the 18th and 22nd. Two records in October, of singles, at Southfield Res. on the 8th and Swillington Ings on 12th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Breeding status assumed to be unchanged as no comments/totals received.

Common along the coast with large numbers reported from Filey and Flamborough; 340 per hour south at Filey on 16th March whilst daily maxima at Flamborough were; 2400 on 17th February; 5260 on 24th March; 60,670 on 26th May; 13,300 on 7th July and 3500 on 28th December.

One west at Sunk Island on 22nd September and two east there on 23rd.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

As with the previous species no reports of breeding numbers or status thus assumed to be unchanged. No specific counts at Filey whilst peaks at Flamborough were; 2930 on 23rd March with 6130 on 24th. 8570 on 6th May and 28,790 on 26th.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Singles at Barmston on 29th September (PP); Flamborough on 19th October (AG:PAL:MN: PJW); Filey Brigg on 20th (AJB *et al*) and Barmston on 21st (PP).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Small numbers during January with, on 6th; 16 at Filey and 42 at Flamborough. 15 at Flamborough on the 8th.

One at Barmston on 16th May.

Heavy passage in mid October with, on the 19th, 64 at Spurn; ten at Barmston; 105 at Flamborough and 21 at Scarborough. On the 20th; 205 at Spurn; 674 at Barmston; 1745 at Flamborough and 300 at Filey. Two at Spurn on the 21st with 74 at Flamborough then, at Spurn, 16 on 22nd; 71 at Scarborough on 23rd when 50 were at Long Nab, Burniston. Smaller numbers in November when 104 passed Flamborough on the 6th; 109 on 10th and 18 on 20th. One to six at other coastal locations during this month.

Two west at Sunk Island on 19th October whilst on 29th, 76 flew west there (many arriving on the Humber overland); one at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge and one south along the Trent at Blacktoft Sands. One east at Blacktoft on 24th and one picked up near the centre of Barnsley on 26th. One, a few days dead, at Wheldrake Ings on 29th.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

At Filey, after ten on 13th March, regularly recorded and bred to the north of the Brigg. No other reports received concerning breeding and, as with other auks, assumed to be stable. Monthly maxima counted passing Flamborough were; 673 on 23rd March; 1042 on 27th April; 4710 on 26th May; 8400 on 1st June; 12,300 on 14th July and 5130 on 6th August. One to ten at other coastal locations.

Three west at Sunk Island on 15th June with one west there on 27th September.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Common resident at Flamborough; maximum reported being 2560 on 30th December. Up to 1000 occasionally at Barmston (Flamborough birds) with up to 60 at Filey in April and October whilst 30 were regularly reported from Tophill Low Res. with 45 to 60 during late July and a peak count there of 170 on 24th November.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

No particularly large parties with c175 at Edderthorpe on 7th October; c150 at Carlton Marsh on 20th November with similar numbers at Eccup Res. on 15th January and Staveley on 14th September. 130 at Broomhill Ings during late September with 110 at Thrybergh C.P. on 24th October. Flocks of 50 to 100 at two locations in VC 63 during January and at three in October/November. 60 at Flamborough on 8th December with 53 at East Cottingwith on 19th. Increasing at Pulfin Bog with 33 on 1st January otherwise in VC 61 widespread but in small numbers. Breeding status apparently unchanged.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

No changes in status. Flocks of over 1000 reported from the Tophill Low Res. area with 2000 on 6th January and 4000 on 10th February. Elsewhere in VC 61, 1200 at Murton on 16th February whilst 1700 at Castle Howard on 27th November was the only large gathering in VC 62. In VC 63, 2000+ roosting on Thorne Moors during November with 3000+ on 20th. 3000 at Ecclesall Woods on 19th January; 2000 at Shibden on 1st January; 1500 at Catcliffe on 6th December; 1200 at Thrybergh C.P. on 27th December; 1100 at Ewden on 13th January and at Wilsic during February with 1000 at Thorpe Marsh in December. 1577 flew south over Broomhill Ings on 9th November.

In VC 64, 4000 near Compton (Leeds) on 2nd January; 3500 at High Batts N.R. on 13th January with 1400 at Cops Grove on 12th November and 1000 at Gwendale on 31st December.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

No change in status reported. Maxima in VC 61 were, 67 at Atwick on 28th November; 60 at Barmston on 18th December with 50 on 6th and 43 at Thorganby on 2nd September. Under recorded in this VC. In VC 62, 131 at a farm at Stokesley on 8th September. c150 at Worsbrough, VC 63, on 21st December with 120+ at Hangthwaite on 9th October and 100 at Stainton towards the end of the year. 50 to 80 occasionally at a further six locations. In VC 64, 40 to 70 at Mickletown Ings during the winter months, 59 at Staveley on 5th December and 48 at Becketts' Park, Leeds, on 1st January with the same number at Little Preston on 27th September.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

First reported on 24th April at Dinnington and in central Doncaster; on 25th at Pulfin Bog and then Blacktoft Sands and Barmston on 27th. Most locations reported their first birds between 3rd and 14th May. Spurn reported 13 on 19th May whilst on 2nd June; ten flew south at Spurn; 11 at Flamborough and ten at Sunk Island. 12 at Spurn on 10th June with 13 on the 12th.

Few breeding records from VC 61 whilst in VC 63 most were from the Doncaster area; with about 21 pairs; the Barnsley area with ten pairs and eight singing at Edderthorpe. Not reported as breeding in VC 64 (under recorded) though considered to have done so widely in the eastern parts of the VC. Scarce as a breeder in VC 65.

Only one record at Spurn in autumn whilst passage was light everywhere; maxima being 12 east at Sunk Island on 24th August with seven the following day. Ten at Thrybergh C.P. on 29th then seven at Whitton on 7th September and six at Blacktoft Sands on 1st. Last were two at Blacktoft on 23rd September.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

One at Thorpe Marsh on 11th April being the first then at Skipwith on 12th; Poppleton on 14th. Eight at Sunk Island on 23rd May with six on 7th July and six in the Little Don valley during late May. Had a good year in the Laytham and Bielby areas of VC 61. Last were at Thorpe Marsh on 6th September and at Spurn on 26th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Considered to be decreasing in VC 61 and missing from some areas. Bred near Atwick; Skipsea; Ulrome; Mappleton; Wheldrake; Melbourne; at five unnamed locations in the York area whilst two pairs bred at Scampston. Singles were reported from some 28 locations with two occasionally near the coast and three at Skeffling on 5th March and at Wheldrake Ings on 4th April.

In VC 62, bred at Mowthorpe; reported mainly from the eastern part of the VC though occasionally near Brandsby. In VC 63; bred at 'a few' locations in the Barnsley area; at one in the Sheffield area; four near Doncaster; three near Ousefleet whilst a pair north of Rotherham reared two broods. Elsewhere in this VC, reported from 11 locations (mainly the southeast) which included only one each from the Huddersfield and Bradford areas.

Only one pair confirmed as breeding in VC 64, at Barkston, with only 11 records of singles birds received. Three records only from VC 65; a pair in Waldendale in May but no evidence of breeding, and singles at Bolton-on-Swale on 12th September and occasionally during May in Bishopdale. No respite in the number of road casualties with nine reported this year.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

A first year male at Spurn on the afternoon of 30th March (JC *et al*) being present later that day near Kilnsea (DJB:DMB *et al*). The first record for the Observatory.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Bred at Murton and Thorganby in VC 61 with possible breeding at a further 11 locations. Most records concerned single birds but two at both Sigglethorne and Tophill Low Res. in spring. In VC 62, bred at Marton; Skewsby; Snargate Hill and Pilfitts with birds present during the breeding season at a further seven locations. In VC 63; about 55 breeding pairs located with probable breeding by a further 12 whilst in VC 64; no comments concerning breeding were received but many thought to have succumbed during the severe weather of January/February in the northwest (and into VC 65). Otherwise status in this VC would appear unchanged. Some signs of recovery in VC 65 though still remaining much scarcer than in 1989.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Few comments received; status would appear unchanged though grossly under reported.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

In VC 61, bred at Burstwick and Skipwith Common and possibly near Bielby. Occasionally reported during May/June from Flamborough; Tophill Low Res.; Barmston and Sunk Island where two were present on 8th May. Seven to nine roosting at Tophill Low Res. on 6th January with up to three at Skipwith Common during January. An influx on 27th October when ten were at Spurn; seven at Flamborough with three at both Sunk Island and Atwick/Skipsea. 11 at Spurn on 28th, two on 29th and six on 30th. Few records from VC 62 though bred in Cropton Forest.

A total of nine pairs bred in the Barnsley; Huddersfield; Sheffield and Thorne Moors areas of VC 63 whilst roosts were reported from Denaby Ings with 13 on 15th January; eight in the Rother Valley C.P. on 1st January and five on 30th November; six at Broomhill Ings in late December; up to five flying over Went Ings on 6th and six at a newly located roost near Sheffield on 9th/10th.

Two pairs bred in VC 64; one near Settle rearing two young and one in the centre of the VC. Five birds present at the Mickletown Ings roost on 1st January remaining to early February when moving to a new site (150 yards away) being present there until 20th March. Four at Staveley on 28th November with one still present on 11th December.

Observed at a former breeding location in VC 65 during the summer but no evidence of breeding; few records otherwise.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Bred in VC 61 near Scampston; in VC 63 at Blacktoft Sands and five moorland locations whilst in VC 64 bred at one, possibly two locations in the Bradford area otherwise stated as a poor year in this VC with fewer records than usual. No indication of a change in breeding status in VC 65.

Several spring and summer records from Flamborough whilst quite widespread along the coast and estuary during the periods January/early May and August/December. Seven at Flamborough on 20th October; three to five at Spurn from 20th to 23rd with five there on 5th November. Three regularly at Sunk Island during both winter periods with three at Filey in late October.

In VC 63; five at Blacktoft Sands on 16th February; 18th March and 27th December otherwise three to four in December. Three frequented the Mickletown area of VC 64 occasionally during the early months and again during November/December. Six on Feldon Ranges, VC 65, throughout November and December.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

13 or 14 pairs bred on Skipwith Common; 26 churring males reported from Hatfield Moor with 46 on Thorne Moor and five at Wharncliffe.

The first reported was at Skipwith on 18th May and the last at Thorne Moor on 17th September. Away from the breeding areas; two at Escrick on 10th June; singles at Pickhill, VC 65, on 15th June and at Yearsley, VC 62, on 6th July.

Swift *Apus apus*

A very early bird at Long Marston, VC 64, on 13th April (PW) with the next on 24th at Pugneys' C.P. (two); Southfield Res.; Winterset Res. and Broomhill Ings and then the following day at Elland G.P.; Ingbirchworth Res.; Roils Head (Halifax); Pool Paper Mills; Knotford Nook (two); Swillington Ings (four) and Hay-a-Park (five). Quite widespread by the 1st May in small numbers with the main influx occurring late May/early June. Peak counts in spring were 1800 at Pugneys' C.P. on 31st May; 1000 at Hay-a-Park on 31st May; 2000+ at Esholt on 11th June; 1000 at Lundwood S.F. on 15th June 2000 at Knotford Nook on same date increasing to 5000 by 22nd; 1000 at Tophill Low Res. from 28th May to 16th June with up to 2000 occasionally and 1350 at Spurn from 22nd to 25th June.

Maxima came in July with Spurn reporting 1000 on 7th; 5000 on 8th; 15,000 on 9th; 1000 on 11th; 7000 on 12th; 3600 on 13th and 1500 on 15th. The only other large counts were 1000 at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd July and at Edderthorpe with 'thousands' on 9th August.

Few lingered into September with the last being at Cudworth on 18th; Wheldrake on 22nd; Spurn on 24th then very late birds at Filey on 27th October and Atwick (same?) on 28th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One over Whirlow Brook Park, Sheffield, on the morning of 25th April (BCS).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Bred at some seven locations in VC 61 though owing to the number and distribution of records would appear to have done so at more. The only coastal occurrences were of singles at Spurn on 21st September and Filey Dams on 22nd July. Three birds recorded on several occasions near Pulfen Bog but nine at Stamford Bridge on 11th June.

Appears to be under recorded in VCs 62; 63 and 64 with little proof of breeding and no apparent change in status though suffered losses in VC 64 during severe weather of January/February. Six at Pool Paper Mills in August. "Another good breeding season" in VC 65.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

On 26th June, one at Scalby Mills, Scarborough (RHA) with one a few hours later that day at Hornsea. One seen, plus another heard, at Burton Riggs G.P. (Seamer) on 27th (RHA) whilst on 1st July, three were at Flamborough (PAL) and two at Spurn (BRS:AC). One heard at Spurn on 10th (BRS).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Singles at Tong Park, Baildon, on 22nd April; Beal from 29th to 2nd May (Mr. & Mrs. Cammish); Emley from 16th to 23rd May (Mrs. Harrap); Spurn on 12th September; Bolton Woods Quarries, Bradford, on 25th September and Skeffling on 20th November (IRH).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One at Sutton-on-Derwent on 30th April (TED). In autumn, singles at Spurn on 8th and 28th September; two at Flamborough on 29th with two at Spurn on 30th. One in Filey C.P. from 2nd to 11th October with one at Tophill Low Res. on 9th (IF).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Status unchanged but may be increasing in VC 64. Records away from the breeding locations include one on the saltmarsh at Whitton on 29th December and one at Tophill Low Res. on 12th July.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Status appears to be unchanged; 'widespread and common' being the comment from several locations but also considered to be under reported. Away from usual haunts; one at Spurn on 1st August; at both Barmston and Sunk Island on 23rd March with two in the centre of Filey, occasionally resting on house roofs, on 10th January.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

The only breeding record in VC 61 came from Escrick whilst reported only from Newburgh Priory and Sutton Park, in VC 62; from Bingley and Sprotbrough in VC 63; at five locations in VC 64 and one, Whitcliffe Woods, in VC 65. Becoming more frequent as a visitor to garden feeding stations in VC 64. Status would however appear to be unchanged.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A bird of one of the eastern 'grey' races at Flamborough from 14th to 20th September (PAL: MN:AS:JCL:PJW *et al.*). One, also of an eastern 'grey' race was present at Spurn on 27th and 30th October (LJD:GED:GJS *et al.*).

The Flamborough bird is still under consideration by BBRC.

Addition to the 1990 Report: One at Robin Hoods' Bay on 21st May (TJB).

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Addition to the 1990 Report: At Buckton on 20th October (SH).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

No changes in status commented upon. During the cold weather of early February, many flocks were recorded, some moving through. On the 7th; 270 at Finningley; 191 to the south at Blacktoft Sands; on the 8th, 300 at Tickhill; 300 at Filey; 150 at Wadworth; 98 south at Thrybergh C.P. and 200 south at Newby (Scarborough). On the 9th, 71 south at Swillington with 500 at Finningley and on the 10th; 75 south at Thrybergh C.P. with 44 at Flamborough; 77 south at Pulfin Bog and 960+ at Aldbrough. On the 17th; 200+ at Seaton and 150-200 at Catfoss.

In autumn; peaks inland were reported on 6th October with 145 west at Blacktoft Sands and 287 at Broomhill Ings, whilst on the coast, numbers peaked a little later with 316 east at Sunk Island on 12th; 244 west on 20th; 130 east on 28th and 229 west there on 30th whilst at Spurn 300 flew south on the 30th and 313 on 2nd November.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Two at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 21st February; one at Spurn on 24th February with five at Flamborough from 30th March to 5th April.

During the latter months; one at Flamborough on 10th October then singles there on 12th October and 2nd and 22nd November with two from the east on 23rd. Six at Barmston on 20th October when four were at Filey and one at Sunk Island. Also, at Filey, one on 21st/22nd October with four on 9th November and one from 10th to 15th, this last bird being found dead on 16th. Three at Spurn from 25th to 27th October; two on 2nd/3rd November with singles south on 3rd November and 2nd December.

An adult with 35+ Skylarks at Oulton (Leeds) on 9th November (AJR).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Four at Knotford Nook on 9th March (the second earliest arrival ever for Yorkshire) with 30+

there on the 10th. Next were on the 15th at Swinsty Res. and Poppleton followed by birds at Winterset Res.; Pugney's C.P. and Bolton-on-Swale on the 16th. Did not reach the east of the county until the end of March. Spring peaks were 260 at Castle Howard on 16th April; 120 at Winterset Res. on 17th and 150 at Tophill Low Res. on 21st. 250 at Staveley and 150 at Hay-a-Park during that month with 200+ at Eccup Res. on 30th May and 800 at Tophill Low Res. from the 31st to 2nd June.

Very few breeding records from VC 61, hopefully not a true reflection, but in VC 63, sadly the general impression was of lower numbers than 1990 whilst the breeding season in VC 64 was "a disaster" particularly around the Leeds area. However, another good season at most locations in VC 65.

Autumn numbers low in VC 61 excepting at Wheldrake Ings where 400 were present on 20th August with 1000 on 22nd and 200 on 28th. 1200 at Blacktoft Sands on 14th August being considered to be very low; elsewhere, 100 at Worsbrough on 14th September. Peaks in VC 64 being 300 on 20th August and 250 on 4th September, both at Swillington Ings. The last of the year were at Blacktoft Sands on 15th October with four at Edderthorpe on 17th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first at Knotford Nook on 7th March was well in advance of the next on 17th at Blacktoft Sands followed by one on 25th at Sprotbrough; Tophill Low Res. on 27th and Blacktoft again on 30th. Significant numbers not reported until late April with spring peaks of 150 at Pulfen Bog on 30th April and in late April/early May of 300 at both Bretton Park and Pugney's C.P.; 250 at Winterset Res.; 200 at Ingbirchworth Res. and Broomhill Ings with 150 at Tophill Low Res. and Blackmoorfoot Res.. Peaks at Spurn were of 500 to 1000 between 20th and 27th May whilst Flamborough had 600 on 24th.

Scarcer than usual in VC 65 with a poorer than normal breeding season in VC 64. No other comments received.

Autumnal peaks were low along the coast with 900 at Spurn on 16th August whilst 1142 moved west at Sunk Island on 25th. The autumn roost at Wheldrake Ings held 5000 on 27th August with 3500 on 28th and 5000 on 30th; 4000 on 2nd September; 6000 on 4th; 4000 on 10th and 2500 on 16th. 7000 at Winterset Res. on 28th August; 3000 at Broomhill Ings in late August with an isolated peak of c30000 on 7th September. 2000 at Thrybergh C.P. in early September and 5000 near Ripon in late August.

Late birds were at Thrybergh C.P. on 1st November; at Barmston, Filey and Tophill Low Res. on 2nd; Atwick and Tophill Low Res. on 3rd; Spurn on 9th and Thrybergh C.P. on the 11th. One at Wilsic on 6th December was the fourth latest ever for Yorkshire.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

First arrivals were at Swillington Ings on 3rd April; Pugney's C.P. on 6th then Harewood on the 7th and Bretton Park on the 8th. Reported from several locations during the next few days with the first influx, albeit small, on the 14th. The bulk of the birds were late in arriving; many locations not reporting a build-up until late May. Spring peaks reported were; 420 at Tophill Low Res. on 31st May with 600 on 2nd June and 400 on 7th; 280+ at Dowley Gap S.F. on 17th May; 400 at Eccup Res. on 30th May; 200 at the Rother Valley C.P. on 28th with 200 at Pugney's C.P. on 31st; 250 there on 2nd June and 200 at Ingbirchworth on 7th.

All comments received on breeding were unfavourable; 'poor', York area; 'well down in numbers', Dalby, VC 62; 'fewer present', VC 64 and 'numbers much lower than usual', VC 65.

Autumn peaks all reflected the breeding season; 908 at Spurn on 17th September; 800 at Flamborough on 11th August; 500 at Holdworth (Sheffield) on 14th September; 400 at Ripon in August with 350 at Swillington Ings; 330 at Thrybergh C.P. on 12th September and 300 at Wheldrake Ings on 8th. Still quite widespread in early October though most had left by mid month. Reported in November from Atwick; Scarborough and Spurn on 4th and Spurn on 28th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

A good year with Flamborough reporting singles on 23rd and 29th September; on 21st October then three on 24th; two on 25th with three on 26th; one on 27th and finally, one on 31st (PAL:JCL:MN:PJW: *et al*). One north at Spurn on 15th October; one on 17th; one on 22nd then

two on 24th; three on 25th remaining to the 31st when two moved locations staying then until 3rd November (BRS:SML *et al.*). One at Kilnsea on 11th October (AJH).

Inland; singles at Burton Riggs G.P. on 21st September (RHA) and one at Swillington Ings on 17th October (PRM).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

A first winter individual at Flamborough on 30th August (PAL).

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

One at Easington on 28th October (GED) and one at Pulfin Bog on 27th December. (DGH). This latter being the first inland record for the county and the first in winter. Both still under consideration by BBRC.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One in the Little Don valley on 11th April with singles on 12th at Blake Dean (Halifax) and Spurn. None in VC 64 until May and very few in VC 61 at all excepting the York area where small numbers bred. Well distributed in the forests of VC 62 but numbers thought to be down in VC 64. Most had departed by mid September but one at Spurn on 1st October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Flocks during the early months were small excepting 200 at Broomhill Ings during severe weather on 10th February. Spring passage was generally light with 100 north at Scarborough on 30th March; 230 at Broomhill Ings on 31st; 170 at Spurn on 1st April and 200 west at Ripponden on 3rd.

Although a common and widespread breeder in VC 61, numbers considered to be down. Status unchanged in VC 64 whilst comments not received from the other VCs.

Autumn passage more widespread than spring with larger numbers involved. On the coast 600 passed Flamborough on 15th September whilst 10,500 were reported at Spurn on 15 days of that month with peak count of 2400 on 17th. 200 there on 10th October. Reported moving along the Humber shore at Sunk Island in October/November with peaks there of 364 west on 23rd and 380 west on 30th September; 660 west on 2nd October; 310 west on 4th and 477 east on 12th. 4805 counted moving west over Strines Top on 4th September (KC) with 697 west in one hour at Redmires on 19th. 260 were at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th September with 300 at Malham Tarn on 25th, otherwise few flocks of any note during the latter months.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

40 at Flamborough on 26th January was the maximum for that location with nowhere else reporting more than ten. Up to nine at Sunk Island occasionally during the early months with up to seven there during the latter. Eight at Stone Creek on 6th January with one to three on the Humber shore at several locations as far west as Hull. Further west; two flew west near the Humber Bridge on 2nd April whilst three were at Broomfleet Island from 15th October to the end of the year. Southerly passage noted at Spurn in autumn with 25 on 4th October and 18 on 2nd November. Three inland at Tophill Low Res. on 13th October.

In VC 63, three at Southfield Res. on 25th October; two at Pugney's C.P. on 27th/28th October and single birds occasionally at six locations in the early months and at seven during the latter. Singles at Swillington Ings/Swillington Park, VC 64, on four occasions during the period January/April with a late bird on 18th May and two on 10th February. During the period late October/December, singles occasionally at three locations with two at Swillington Ings on 28th December and probably two at Hay-a-Park on 26th October.

Birds attributable to the Scandinavian race, *A.p. littoralis*, on field characteristics, were reported from Flamborough on 27th January; four times in March with three on 9th and on four occasions in April with nine on 7th. One at Winterset Res. on 22nd March. One at both Knostrop S.F. and Swillington Ings on 1st January; at the latter on 5th and 13th January; 9th March and then daily from 18th to 26th with two on 24th. One at Knostrop S.F. on 26th March. Singles at Swillington Ings on 9th November and 28th December.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

One, in VC 62, at Burton Riggs G.P. on 17th/18th April (DB:PJD). In VC 63, one at Leeshaw Res. between 23rd March and 19th April (DCB) and at Blacktoft Sands; singles on 7th and 15th January; 5th April and one occasionally between 28th October and years' end. In VC 64, the bird at Knostrop S.F. reported in December 1990, was present on 1st and 4th January. At Swillington Ings; one on 22nd March; two on 24th with four on 28th; five on 30th and six on 1st April. (JMcL:AJR *et al*); five remaining to 7th April with three to 12th and one to the 18th. (RB *et al*). Three at Knostrop S.F. on 30th November (PRM).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

First of the year at Swillington Ings on 1st April followed by one at Cleasby on 3rd then Tophill Low Res. on 5th and two at Blacktoft Sands on the 6th. Spring peaks were low with 31 at Bolton-on-Swale the largest gathering reported. A good breeding season in the Bielby/Laytham areas of VC 61 though remains in decline in the western part of VC 63, breeding only in the eastern part of the Barnsley area and around Doncaster. Greatly declined at Malham Tarn where only two pairs held territories compared with 17 in 1967.

Autumn peaks were also low with 50 to 70 at Tophill Low Res. during late August; 59 west at Sunk Island on 30th September and 65 at Blacktoft Sands on 31st August and 1st September. Late birds were reported on 4th October at Blacktoft Sands; on 26th at Spurn with the last there on 9th November.

Individuals of the nominate race *M.f.flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail) were reported from nine locations with five or six at Broomhill Ings between 12th April and 4th June whilst 11 were at Spurn on 3rd September. Single females were paired with Yellow Wagtails (*M.f.flavissima*) at both Tophill Low Res. and Blacktoft Sands.

Birds considered to belong to the race *M.f.thunbergi* (Grey-headed Wagtail) were reported from Filey Dams on 12th May (HJW: *et al*) and 19th/20th (WHL:CCT *et al*); Beacon Lane Ponds, Kinsea, on 25th (BL) and at Broomhill Ings on 9th June (DMW).

A bird considered to belong to the race *M.f.cinereocapilla* (Ashy-headed Wagtail) was at Tophill Low Res. on 11th May (FXM).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Bred in VC 61 at Escrick with probable breeding occurring on the Lower Derwent and at Bielby whilst a juvenile at Tophill Low Res. on 11th June may have been reared locally. Small numbers only in this VC but four at Spurn on 2nd November; four at Filey on 3rd November and occasionally up to nine at Pocklington Canal Head.

Bred in VC 63 on the low ground in the Doncaster area for the second successive year; status on the higher ground being unchanged. Similarly, no status changes reported from VCs 62, 64 and 65.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

No change in status reported. In VC 61; peak count in spring was 54 at Filey on 1st April whilst in autumn 100 at Tophill Low Res. on 8th September; 240 at Flamborough on 14th October with 140 at Melbourne on 27th. 200 at Knostrop S.F.; VC 64, on 13th January with 140 at Knotford Nook on 30th August.

In VC 63; roosts peaked at 361 in Keighey town centre on 29th May; 320 at Huddersfield Civic Centre on 31st January; 350 in Doncaster town centre on both 8th and 15th December whilst "several hundred" were at a pre-roost gathering at a car park in Rotherham on 23rd February.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

A large flock built up in the Copmanthorpe area of York during January with three being present there on 10th increasing to c250 by 18th thereafter maxima were; 150 on 20th; 102 on 21st; 90 on 22nd; 110 on 26th then 23 on 27th with the last three on 4th February. Birds were, at times, noted all the way along the A64 between York and Leeds with, it is suggested, some interchange between these two locations. In the latter area, 100 were at Hunslett on 21st January; 60+ at Farnley Balance Res. on 27th/28th; 30-40 at Intake on 24th; 60 at the General Infirmary on 10th February and 40 roosting in Golden Acre Park during March. 42 at Knotford Nook from

5th to 12th January whilst several flocks of up to 30 were in Harrogate. It is estimated that c500 birds were present in the Leeds and Harrogate areas during these early months. Of the birds at York and Leeds, some 20 had been colour ringed in the Aberdeen area during November 1990.

Several parties of ten to 50 were in Scarborough from late January to mid April though the exact total is not clear; 36 in Thirsk on 30th January.

In VC 63; large numbers in Bradford; Halifax; Huddersfield and Sheffield with lesser numbers in Barnsley and few elsewhere. In the Norton College/Meadowhall area of Sheffield numbers increased from 24 on 18th January to 160 on 2nd February then 100 on 6th before decreasing as food ran out. 53 in Eccleshall Road from mid March to 29th April with 38 present in the city centre from 4th April to 5th May but only six on 9th. In Huddersfield; 47 at Lockwood on 24th February; 25 at Yateholme on 2nd March; 21 in Marsh during February (thought to be a total of 70+ in the Huddersfield area). Possibly 40+ in Halifax during the period early January to early April with 34 along Ovenden Avenue in early January dispersing by the 21st; 31 in the town centre on 5th February with 40 there on 19th. In the Bradford area; 20 in Bingley on 12th March; 40 to 50 at Keighley from 13th to 19th; 70 at Crossflats on 17th April with 20 to 30 in the city centre from 11th to 21st April and 60 at Bingley on 29th/30th. 28 at Carlton Marsh on 29th January departed to south otherwise only one or two occasionally in the Barnsley area.

Seven at Anlaby (Hull), in VC 61, on 27th January with 30 there on 2nd and 20 on 3rd February. Eight at Flamborough on 4th April otherwise few in this VC.

Birds appeared again in November, albeit in smaller numbers. In VC 61; 14 in West Hull on 26th December with 25 on 27th whilst in VC 62; up to 12 in Scarborough in December with 23 at Skewsby on 24th November; 17 at Heslington on 11th/12th December; 40+ at Brandsby on 26th and 19 in Yearsley Forest on 27th.

In VC 63; a flock built up near Huddersfield town centre from early December peaking on 14th with 56; 42 being present on 26th whilst in Sheffield 43 were in the Eccleshall Road area on 10th December remaining to years' end with 60 on 15th. 65 in Hanover Square on 28th may have been the same birds. Few in VC 64 with nine at Knaresborough from 11th to 20th December as maximum. 16 at Sessay, VC 65, from 2nd to 7th December.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

In VC 62 reported breeding at Hawby; Reivaulx; Nunnington and West Ness. Maintains good breeding numbers in VC 63; likewise in the western area of VC 64. No comment received from VC 65.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Both Tophill Low Res. and Swillington Ings reported reduced numbers due to severe weather in February but no other locations did so. 50 at Flamborough on 11th October with up to 25 at Spurn during that month.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Apart from Swillington Ings, where a reduction was recorded owing to severe weather, no other change of status was reported. Influx in October along the coast with 120 at Flamborough on 11th; 100 there on 13th when 110 were at Spurn whilst up to 50 were at Filey during this period.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Nowhere reported any change in status excepting Swillington Ings where a reduction was noted. In VC 63; 40 at Thorpe Marsh on 12th January; 39 at Shibden on 8th October and 45 in Woolley Woods on 4th December. Autumnal influx along the coast with 250 at Flamborough on 29th September; 70 at Spurn on 30th; 50 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 12th October and 50 at Filey on 15th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Ten singing birds reported on Thorne Moors. One present at Spurn between 6th and 14th October was trapped on the 9th and, on plumage and biometrics, was considered to belong to one of the eastern races *L.m.africana* or *L.m.hafiz* (JC:BRS *et al*). (The only other record of a bird of

one of these races recorded in Britain was found dead on Fair Isle on 30th October 1971).

A bird singing at Spurn on 27th May was not seen sufficiently well to be identified for certain and was either this species or Thrush Nightingale *L. luscinia*.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

One, of the White-spotted race *L.s. cyanecula*, carrying a Belgian ring, was at Flamborough on 31st March (MN:PJW:PAL *et al*).

Singles of the nominate race at Spurn on 27th September and 27th October; at Flamborough on 5th October and Scarborough on 18th November (WAC).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The Sheffield breeding population appears to be stable at five pairs, two of which reared second broods. Singles at Thorpe Marsh on 24th April; Norland, Halifax, from 27th August to 7th October and in Hull Docks on 28th August. All other records were coastal with single birds occasionally at Kettleness; Scarborough; Atwick; Barmston; Kilnsea and Easington. One or two occasionally at Filey in spring and autumn whilst six were at Flamborough on 12th October with c25 individuals during that month including one attributable to one of the eastern races *P.o. ochruros* or *P.o. semirufous*. One or two at Spurn in spring but five on 13th. One there on 3rd July then one or two in autumn but up to four between 10th and 13th October with four again on 26th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A disastrous year in the northern part of the York area where none found to be breeding, otherwise no change in status reported.

First birds were at Addingham Moorside on 13th April and Eccleshall, Sheffield, on the 14th. Spring passage poor with only one or two at Spurn; Filey and Flamborough. Ten singing males at Bolton Abbey on 19th May whilst 20 to 25 pairs located in the Pennine valleys of VC 63.

Early autumn passage on the coast was light but numbers higher towards the end of September with 13 at Spurn on 27th; 19 on 28th; 12 on 29th when 23 were at Flamborough and 13 at Filey; 20 at Spurn on 30th. 12 at Flamborough on 12th October. Late birds were at Thorpe Marsh on 14th October; Flamborough on 20th and Spurn on the 28th.

Birds considered to be attributable to the eastern race *P.p. samamiscus* were at Flamborough on 10th and 30th October (PAL *et al*) and Kilnsea on 28th (GED).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Single birds at Winterset Res. and Ogen's Pool on 13th April were well in advance of the next at Ripon on 21st and Broomhill Ings on 28th. The main arrival being in the second week in May. Numbers in spring generally low excepting 21 at Spurn on 22nd May and 15 at Barmston on 30th with 12 on Strensall Common on 24th.

Breeding numbers down in VC 65, being much scarcer than in 1990, and seems to be decreasing in VC 63 though no change reported from VC 64.

Peaks reported in autumn were 35 at Flamborough on 1st September; 22 at Filey on 3rd when 27 were at Spurn where 38 had been present on 26th August. 12 at Strines Top on 9th September. A few lingered into October with singles at West Park, Leeds, on 11th; Staveley on 21st and Flamborough on 25th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Thought to be less numerous in VC 63 than in 1990 where single birds were occasionally reported at seven lowland sites during the early months with one or two at five upland locations. Two at Harrogate, VC 64, from January to March with two at Lower Barden Res. on 26th January. In VC 61, two at Sunk Island on 1st January with two at Flamborough on 9th March otherwise very few in the early months when occasionally single birds were reported from Filey and Spurn. During the latter months, four at Spurn on 27th September with two on 29th and three on the 30th then one to three daily between 15th and 27th October. Singles at Sunk Island on 21st September and 12th October and at Flamborough on 13th/14th October.

In VC 63, a similar situation to the early months with singles infrequently at five lowland, and

one or two at six upland locations. Only four records in VC 64 where single birds were recorded at Killinghall Moor on 4th; near Malham Tarn and Swillington Ings on 6th October and Leventhorpe Ash Ponds on 15th November.

Birds attributed to one of the eastern races, either *S.t.maura* or *S.t.stejnegeri* (Siberian Stonechat) were reported from Spurn on 29th/30th September and 27th October (IC:JMcL: CPM); at Easington from 13th to 17th (JMcL *et al*) and 27th/30th October; at Flamborough on 13th/14th October (PAL:DIMW:JCL:MN:PJW) and at Filey on 29th September (TLH:DJS:PMS *et al*).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A very early bird at Thrybergh C.P. on 2nd March was followed by one on Feldon Ranges on 8th and Flamborough on 9th; most locations reporting their first birds between 20th and the end of the month. Small numbers moved through in April with the peak passage, on the coast, occurring in late May with 56 at Flamborough on 20th; 53 on 21st and 67 on 22nd whilst 90 were at Spurn on this last date when 44 were also at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea.

Some 30 pairs located on the western moorlands of VC 63 was considered to be below average breeding numbers. Good breeding numbers however reported from the Bradford area of VC 64 otherwise no further comments received.

Autumn passage lighter than spring with maxima at Spurn of 25 on 31st August and nine at Filey on 11th October. Late birds were reported from Barmston where one was present from 25th October to 2nd November with one at Spurn also on 2nd.

Birds considered to be of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorhoa*, were reported from Flamborough where 12 were present on 3rd June; from VC 62, with three at Burniston on 26th May; in VC 63, where small numbers were occasionally reported at ten locations between 2nd May and 1st June and in VC 64 with three on 10th May at Farnham G.P. and five at Rawdon on 7th.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

A male trapped at Spurn on 20th June (BRS) was undoubtedly the bird, carrying a ring, present on Castle Hill, Scarborough, on 22nd/23rd. (RC *et al*). The second record for Yorkshire.

Correction to the 1990 Report: The bird referred to as occurring at Barmston on 20th October 1989 was in fact recorded on 20th October 1988. It was not accepted by BBRC.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

One at Booth Dam Quarry on 8th March was early with the next being at Bishopside on 16th then Midhope on 19th. Spring passage was light with one to three at several coastal locations during May.

No comments received on breeding status excepting seven singing males in one area near Halifax indicating a healthy population.

Autumn passage light but a fall on 10th October with five at Scarborough; 30 at Flamborough; eight Mappleton/Cowden and 13 at Spurn whilst on the 11th, nine at Filey and 56 at Flamborough. One at Scarborough on 2nd November with two at Flamborough on the 3rd.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

No apparent change in status. 200 at Thorpe Marsh during January with 67 at Fulford on 6th January and 70 at Westwick on 12th February being the only counts of note during the early months.

In October, an influx occurred on the northerly part of the coast when 250 were present on 12th at Castle Hill, Scarborough and 150 at Filey on the 14th. The main arrival, between Flamborough and Spurn occurred from 20th to 29th with maxima of 500 at Spurn on 21st; 1250 on 23rd; 600 on 25th and 400 on 29th whilst 500 were at Flamborough on both 23rd and 26th; 250+ at Kilnsea on the 23rd. In November; 300 at Spurn on 6th and 17th with 350 on 18th. The October influx was mirrored inland in VC 63 with 55 at Thrybergh C.P. on 20th though larger numbers were reported in late November/early December with 155 at Worsbrough on 22nd November; 100 at Thorpe Marsh on 23rd; 153 at Wintersett on 7th December; 259 in Woolley Woods on 9th and 150 at Thorpe Marsh on 19th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

During the early months few in the eastern part of the county but several large gatherings in the Doncaster areas with 1100+ southeast on Thorne Moors on 10th January; 4000 feeding on Inkle Moor on 11th with 1000+ roosting on the N.N. Reserve area; 2000 at Thorpe Marsh during early January with 1400 at Broomhill Ings on 6th and 4000 at Pickburn on 20th. Away from this area, 800 were at Great Langton, VC 65, on 12th when 700 were reported from North Cowton. Many moved out during the cold spell in February after which numbers were relatively small. In spring, 1200 flew northeast over Bishopside on 30th March with 2000 northwest over Harrogate on 9th April. 1000 at Arkengarthdale on 1st April. Small numbers lingered into early May with one at Flamborough on 19th and at Spurn on 4th June although 56 were on Feldon Ranges in mid July. A pair seen carrying nest material in VC 63 during late April/early May but not seen subsequently.

Singles were at Spurn on 22nd; 30th and 31st August with one at Flamborough on 22nd and one at Filey on 1st September. The main arrival occurred in late October when 2730 flew west at Sunk Island on 19th with 5880 west there on 20th. On this latter date 6140 flew west at Strines Top; 3000 at Malham Tarn; 1600 at Broomhill Ings; 1060 at Swillington Ings with up to 800 at a further 14 locations. 2200 at Spurn on 23rd when 2500 flew west over Kilnsea; 2000 at Flamborough on 25th and 1000 at Spurn on that same day. In November; 3450 at Broomhill Ings on 2nd otherwise few large gatherings reported excepting 2200 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st. Likewise during December with 1100 at Broomhill Ings on the 14th the largest flock reported.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

A decline reported from the northern part of the York Recording Area otherwise status would appear to be unchanged.

19 at Swillington Ings in 1st January was considered unusual but few elsewhere until the autumnal influx which occurred between 10th and 15th October. On 10th, 200+ at Scarborough; 60 at Filey and 150 at Spurn. 65 at Filey on 11th but 1000 at Flamborough on 14th. 80 at Whitton on 28th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

As with Fieldfare, few in the eastern part of the county during the early months; 350 near York on 19th January being the largest gathering. Further west; 1000 at Smithies (Barnsley) on 8th January with 1000 at Pickburn on 20th. No other gatherings of this magnitude except 1000 at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd March. Most had departed by mid April but occasional records into May with singles at both Spurn and Flamborough on 26th.

The first of the autumn was at High Batts N.R. on 8th September then one at Flamborough on 10th with records from Spurn and Leeds on 27th; Thrybergh C.P. on 28th and from several locations on 29th when 240 were reported from Spurn. In October, 1000 at Spurn on 10th with 400 at Scarborough; 3000 at Flamborough on 14th; 950 west at Sunk Island on 19th whilst on the 20th; 1950 west there with 1950 west over Strines Top; 1500 over Malham Tarn; 1050 west at Southfield Res. and 520 at Swillington Ings. 1500 at Spurn on 23rd when 1000 flew west at Kilnsea. 1000 in the Wheldrake area during November otherwise no gatherings of no more than 500 during the last two months.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

An excellent breeding season in VC 65 otherwise no comments were received on status.

Flocks reported were 80 at Grange Park Golf Club (Sheffield) on 10th August; 62 at Carlton Marsh on 19th; 61 at Midhope on 18th; 50 at Norland Moor in August with 30 to 45 occasionally at Pulfin Bog; Staveley; Westwick; Hutton Magna; Ainderby Steeple and Blackmoorfoot Res.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

One at Thrybergh C.P. from 13th to 15th April then Blacktoft Sands on 18th being reported from many locations by late April.

Definite breeding occurred in VC 61 only at Pulfin Bog and Wheldrake Ings, where at least six pairs were present (no reports received from Cowden Range, the stronghold in this VC). In VC 63; bred at Blacktoft Sands with probably nine pairs; Thrybergh C.P.; Carlton Marsh and

Denaby Ings, all with one pair each. In VC 64; one pair was reported breeding at an unspecified location whilst in VC 65, one pair at Catterick. Probable/possible breeding occurred at Tophill Low Res.; Faxfleet; Ravenscar; Thorpe Marsh; Middletown; Old Denaby; Mickletown Ings and Broomhill Ings. One to two birds were occasionally reported from many locations during May/June with maxima of six males at Old Denaby on 25th May; five males at Broomhill Ings and four at Tophill Low Res. Very scarce at Winterset Res., a former stronghold with one on 2nd May and one or two from 13th July to 4th August.

Autumn numbers low with few recorded after mid August. Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 1st and 4th September and at Spurn on 24th September and 26th October.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

One singing at Tophill Low Res. between 13th and 15th April (IF:TR:PJS *et al*).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One at Blacktoft Sands on the 13th April was the first with the next at Broomhill Ings on the 14th and Swillington Ings on the 20th. Breeding numbers generally showed little change although VC 63 commented that there was a slight reduction at some locations compared with 1990. The increase in utilising oil-seed rape fields continues. In VC 61; 30 pairs bred at Tophill Low Res.; 23 at Flamborough; 20+ near Bielby whilst 60 birds were present at Wheldrake on 24th May. 80 pairs present at Blacktoft Sands, VC 63, with pairs/singing males at Winterset Res., 20; Pugney's C.P., 17; Carlton Marsh, 16; Potteric Carr, 15 and Broomhill Ings, ten. 19 males singing at Mickletown Ings whilst 27 were in the Swillington/Leventhorpe area but only two or three pairs considered to have bred owing to adverse weather.

Autumn passage was light with the last reported being at Hay-a-Park on 24th September; Blacktoft Sands on 29th then Flamborough on 1st October and Spurn on the 2nd.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 25th April, the first, then reported from Wheldrake Ings on 27th; Potteric Carr on 28th and on the 30th at Tophill Low Res. and Mickletown Ings. The main arrival occurring from about 14th May.

In VC 61; bred at Tophill Low Res. with 29 singing males; Puffin Bog, with two of the pairs there in oil-seed rape and at Riccall and Wheldrake (no numbers). Two, perhaps three pairs at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough, the only breeding record from VC 62 and still the most northerly "colony" in Yorkshire. Good numbers reported from VC 63 with an estimated 350 pairs at Blacktoft Sands (a slight decline from 1990), whilst 22 pairs at Pugney's C.P. was an increase. Other breeding records were; Potteric Carr, 30 pairs; Winterset Res. 15; Broomhill Ings, 12; Old Denaby, 11 and Thrybergh Tip, six. Breeding was confirmed at a further nine locations. 20 males at Mickletown Ings, VC 64, on 3rd June with four at Staveley and three each at Hay-a-Park and Lemonroyd S.F.. A pair still feeding young at Hay-a-Park on 10th September.

Most had departed by late September but several locations reported birds well into October with one at Scarborough Castle to the 15th; Carlton Marsh on 9th and Blacktoft Sands on 16th. In VC 61, one at Tophill Low Res. on 15th; Flamborough on 19th and at Spurn from 22nd to 26th.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

One, trapped at Spurn on 2nd September, remained until the 6th (PJA:AR:BRS *et al*)

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One at Burton Riggs G.P. on 16th August (RHA); one at Castle Hill, Scarborough, on 31st (TME) when one was also at Filey Dams, remaining until 6th September (HJW *et al*) and another at Spurn. A second bird at Filey from 1st to 5th September (CCT *et al*) with one at Flamborough on the 5th (PAL *et al*) and one at Spurn on 8th. One at Flamborough on 1st October.

Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*

One, of the nominate race, trapped at Flamborough on 13th October remained in the area until 11th November (PJW:PAL:MN:TD:JCL: *et al*). The third record for Yorkshire.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

One at Filey from 6th to 13th October. Singles at Flamborough on 29th; 30th; 31st August with two on 1st September; at Barmston on 2nd September and 12th October whilst at Spurn one on 24th/25th September then possibly six individuals during September; on 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 4th; 8th and 29th/30th; one on 2nd and 30th October.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

One at Carlton Marsh on 20th April; Hay-a-Park on 24th; Thorpe Marsh and Silkstone on the 26th with three at Spurn on 27th after which recorded from several locations by the end of the month. Peak numbers during spring were ten at Flamborough on 18th May with a similar count at Spurn on 19th.

Breeding status unchanged excepting in parts of VC 63 when compared with 1990, which however, was an outstanding year, thus any decline here may not be a cause for concern. 40 pairs bred in the Doncaster and Barnsley areas against 49 in 1990 but 14 pairs at Winterset was a locality record.

Autumn passage light with maxima at Spurn of 14 on 26th August and 17 on 1st September. Reported into October with singles at Scarborough and Winterset on 22nd; Filey on 26th; Flamborough and Spurn on 28th. This last bird (Spurn) showing characteristics associated with the Siberian race *S.c.blythi*.

Birds considered to be of eastern origin but not necessarily *S.c.blythi* were at Flamborough on 1st; 10th; 11th and 30th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

No change in status reported from VC 61; VC 62 and VC 64 though scarce in both VC 63 and 65 compared with 1990 which was, however, a good year; Three locations in the Barnsley area totalling 57 pairs against 113 last year. Bred in oil-seed rape at Moor Monkton.

The first to arrive were at Swillington Ings and Winterset on 21st April then at Spurn on 24th followed by Filey on 27th and five locations on the 28th. Peaks in spring, on the coast, were 20 at Flamborough on 18th May; 24 at Spurn on 23rd with 26 on 30th. Autumn numbers on the coast were low with 30 at Spurn on 21st August; 23 on 24th and 27 on 26th whilst Filey reported ten on 1st October. Inland, about 50 were present on 10th August at Medge Hall (Thorne Moors). Few were reported after 25th September but, in October, one at Thrybergh C.P. on 3rd; Winterset on 5th; Southfield Res. from 9th to 11th; Flamborough and Spurn on 12th with the last at Spurn on the 20th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

A very early bird at Digley on 12th April then two at Tophill Low Res. on 20th followed by birds at Winscar on 28th and Keswick Fitts on 29th; the main arrival occurring between 6th and 15th May. Light spring passage with maximum of six at Spurn on 19th May.

Breeding status apparently unchanged though in VC 63 had a better than normal year. Continues to spread into the wooded cloughs of the Pennines to the west and southwest of Huddersfield and, in similar habitat, in the Sheffield area, ten pairs were in the Little Don valley with 15 in the Ewden valley. Both these locations holding only one or two pairs 12 years ago.

Small numbers during autumn with seven at Spurn on 25th August and six at Filey on 30th September. A few remained into October with singles at Winterset on 2nd; Flamborough on 12th; Spurn on 14th and Filey on 30th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Over-wintered at nine locations in VC 63 and ten in VC 64. Birds which may not have done so were at Tophill Low Res. on 27th March; Sprotbrough on 29th and Broomhill Ings on 30th. Small numbers by 10th April but the main arrival towards the end of the month. Spring passage light.

Breeding status apparently unchanged. 65 pairs in the Doncaster area with 53 singing males in the Huddersfield area. Peak counts during the autumn were 30 at Flamborough; 15 at Filey and 31 at Spurn on 30th September. A second influx in October with 40 at Flamborough and 17 at Spurn on 10th; 52 at Flamborough; 20 at Scarborough and 16 at Spurn on 12th; 20 at

Scarborough on 13th/14th with 40 at Flamborough. 27 at Spurn on 14th and 15 at Filey on 15th with many lingering into November along the coast. In excess of 30 locations reported overwintering bird with four in Woolley Woods during December.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One, trapped, at Filey on 10th October (TLH) has been found unproven by BBRC.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Singles at Scarborough on 12th/13th (DBY:RNH); 27th (RC:TME:RNH) and 29th (RNH) October. Two at Flamborough on 15th; two on 26th/27th; one on 28th with three on 29th and two on the 30th October (PAL: VAL *et al.*). One at Filey on 25th being present on 26th and 29th (PJD:MGR:JET) and, at Spurn, three on 25th October with one on 26th and 27th (BRS:PVI:DJB *et al.*).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

One on Castle Hill, Scarborough from 28th September to 13th October with a second bird on 9th October and a third on 10th (RHA:RC:TME:DBY). At Filey, one on 26th September; one on 5th/6th October; two on 10th; two on 25th; one on 26th; two on 27th and one on 30th (SC:JH:TLH:DAR:JET:AB *et al.*). Considered to have been 14 individuals at Flamborough between 28th September and 10th November; most occurrences being of single birds but four on 12th October with three on both the 10th and 28th (PAL: *et al.*). One at Easington on 3rd October (LJ) and 26th (VAL) whilst in Kilnsea one was present from 29th October to 2nd November (JMcL:AJB).

Spurn had two on 30th September; one on 9th/10th October; one on 20th; two on 21st, one of which remained until the 23rd; one on 25th and one from 29th to 30th. This last bird considered to belong to the race *P.i.humei*.

One inland, at Tophill Low Res., on 28th and 30th October (IF:TR)

Radde's Warbler *phylloscopus schwarzi*

One at Spurn on 9th October (MS) with another trapped there on 15th (JC:MFS *et al.*). One at Flamborough on 10th October (JMcL: SR) and one trapped at Grimston on 12th (SGW).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

One at Flamborough from 13th to 15th October (JCL:PAL *et al.*) with another there from the 26th to 2nd November (PLA:PJW:DIMW:JCL:MN *et al.*). Both are still under consideration by BBRC.

Addition to the 1990 Report: A single bird at Blacktoft Sands on 10th and 11th November (AG). The first inland record for Yorkshire.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

One was trapped at Spurn on 24th October (DJB:MGN:SML *et al.*).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Singles at Newmillerdam on 17th April; Winterset on 20th; Heslington on 22nd and Heber's Ghyll on 25th. Arrivals at most locations were between 3rd and 12th May though numbers everywhere small.

From comments received had a good breeding season even extending its range slightly in VC 63; commoner in Swaledale than in 1990; present at some ten locations in VC 64 in the Bradford area though no definite breeding records received from this VC.

As with spring, few records during the autumn particularly after late July. Singles were recorded at Esholt on 17th August; Spurn on 30th August; Thorne Moors on 2nd September; Easington on 3rd October and at Flamborough on both 29th September and 12th October.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Singles reported in January/February at Tophill Low Res.; Scarborough; Bishopthorpe; four locations in VC 63 and two in VC 64. Two birds at Knaresborough S.F. on 1st January. Early

arrivals of birds considered to be genuine migrants were at Woolley Woods on 8th March; Filey on 9th; Winterset on 13th when one was also in the Crimble valley followed by one at Sprotbrough on 15th with birds at Tophill Low Res. and Flamborough on 16th. Spring passage was light whilst the only comment concerning breeding status was of no apparent change.

Autumn passage, likewise, also light with maxima on the coast of 15 at Spurn on 10th October and a similar number at Flamborough on the 12th. Not infrequently reported in early November whilst birds, thought to be over-wintering, were reported in December from Eccup; Fleet Plantation; Filey and Flamborough.

Individuals considered to be of the race *P.c.tristis* were recorded occasionally at Filey in October and regularly during that month and early November at Flamborough with a maximum there of six on 27th October. One at Winterset on 8th November was thought to be of this race. Also birds considered to be of the race *P.c.abietinus* were recorded during the same period at Flamborough with 15 on 12th October.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first was reported at Gledhow, Leeds, on 22nd March with the next at Worsbrough on 1st April; Filey Dams on 3rd then at Thrybergh C.P. on 5th; Cawood and Sturge's Pond on 6th with birds on 7th at Tophill Low Res.; Flamborough and Mickleton Ings. Maxima in spring were 61 at Tophill Low Res. on 28th April; 32 at Flamborough on 11th May; 30 at Brayton Barff on 12th and 25 at Barlow Common on 2nd.

Breeding status apparently unchanged though the Sheffield area reported a possible reduction in numbers. 50 pairs at Tophill Low Res. with 81 singing males at Winterset.

Autumn passage light with 18 at Pulfin Bog on 12th August being the maximum in VC 61 (greatly under reported) with no counts reported from the other VCs. Most birds had departed by mid September but occasionally reported from the coast in October whilst, in November, birds were reported from Tophill Low Res. on 1st; Scarborough on 2nd/3rd and Bessacarr from 14th to 20th (JMB).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Excepting during an influx along the coast, tends to be under reported thus making comments on status a little difficult. Would appear to have declined in parts of VC 63 where comments were "decline in conifers" (Sheffield and Barnsley areas); "thin on the ground", (Castleford area). A poor year throughout VC 64 with very low numbers or even absent from some traditional areas (perhaps owing to severe weather in January/February). Few records from VC 61 and described as under recorded in the York area.

Slight spring passage noted along the coast but quite a large autumnal influx in late September and October with daily maxima of 500 at Flamborough; 150 at Atwick on 12th October; 130 at Filey on same day when 200 were at Scarborough; 120 at Spurn and 50 at Barmston. 220 at Spurn on 25th was not reflected elsewhere. The only indication inland of this influx was of 40 at Tophill Low Res. on 10th October.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Single birds were reported from Knaresborough on 24th January (RE); on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 3rd March (RC); at Kilnsea on 10th April; Spurn on 12th April and 11th May and the Pocklington Canal on 14th (TED).

During the latter months, some 12 individuals were recorded at Flamborough between 29th September and 9th November with three on 30th October. At Scarborough, one on 13th October with two on 27th/28th (AJW:DB:TME) whilst singles were at Barmston from 27th to 29th (PP), Spurn on 29th and Filey on 30th (AB), and Easington on 27th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Indications of a decline in the Huddersfield; Barnsley and Sheffield areas were reported. No change in status in VC 64 with no comments received from the other VCs.

The first of the year was at Horsforth on 5th May, well in advance of others; the next being at Upper Midhope on 11th then Ingbrichworth on 13th; Ripponden on 14th and at Hessele and Graves Park (Sheffield) on the 15th. Many locations not being occupied until the last week of

May. Spring passage was light with five at both Filey and Flamborough as maxima.

Only slightly higher counts along the coast during autumn with up to seven at Spurn whilst inland, 16 were present at Tophill Low Res. in late July and 18 at Wilsic on 8th August. Late birds were at Beckett's Park (Leeds) and Graves Park on 30th September; Flamborough on 1st October; Spurn on 5th and the last at Oakes, (Huddersfield) on the 6th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

A good year with one at Scarborough on 9th October (RHA); one at Filey on 27th September (SC:PJD) with another there on 29th then three on the 30th (RDH:SC:PJD *et al*) followed by one on both 11th and 14th October (PJWS:JS). At Flamborough; one on 28th/ 29th September; three on 1st October; one on 2nd and 10th; two on 12th then one from 13th to 15th (PAL:JCL *et al*). One at Spurn on 9th; two on 21st with one remaining to 24th October (BRS *et al*).

One inland, at Heworth, (York), on 16th October (BGP).

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*

A first winter male at Sunk Island on 16th and 17th November (JW:RTP:GJS:JMT *et al*). The first record from Britain and only the second claimed for the Western Palearctic.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The first was at Calverley Woods (Leeds) on 12th April with the next at Scar House on 16th then Tong Park on 18th and Willowgarth on 19th/20th. Very few coastal records during the spring passage.

Comments on breeding status and success varied; in VC 62, a good season at Hawaby with 30 young fledged from seven nest boxes but only three miles away, at Rievaulx, a poor year with only 19 young from six. Good breeding numbers in VC 63, in the Huddersfield/Barnsley/Sheffield areas but success low – about 50 per cent failing probably owing to the cold June. In VC 64, where 25 were in song in Strid Woods on 18th May, success was normal despite poor weather in May/June. Continues to expand its' range in VC 65 particularly in Wensleydale. 80 young reared from 14 nest boxes at Folly Hall.

Main autumn passage on the coast occurred in late August/early September with maxima of 15 at Filey on 31st August whilst 15 were at Flamborough on 1st September when 14 were at Spurn. Recorded on seven days during October at Spurn with the last on 26th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

About 100 at Blacktoft Sands on 8th January had reduced, owing to a cold February, to about 20 in March but slight increase in April resulting in some 25 pairs breeding. (100 pairs in 1990). Success was moderate though cold weather affected the first broods. 150 were present in October with eruptions occurring between 2nd October and 9th November leaving 60 to winter. Elsewhere along the Humber, two were at nearby Broomfleet Island from 28th October to the years' end.

One at Pugney's C.P. on 23rd November and one south at Tophill Low Res. on 11th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

No overall change in status. Good breeding numbers being reported from VC 63.

Few large flocks reported during the early months with 45 at Skipwith Common; 53 at Worsbrough on 3rd January and 112 in Woolley Woods on 18th February.

Post breeding gatherings were larger and more widespread with 84 at Tophill Low Res. on 10th August and between 40 and 70 there later in the year. 70+ at Eccup on 11th August; 55 on Skipwith Common and a total of 128 in Woolley Woods on 14th December (many flocks of up to 16).

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

No confirmed breeding in VC 61 whilst in VC 62 bred at Brandsby and Thornton Ellers; in VC 63; at Roche Abbey (two pairs); Thorpe Salvin; Firbeck and Anston Stones Wood. Remains scarce in VC 64 though at least; ten pairs estimated at Laver Banks on 5th January. No change in VC 65 where more widespread than Willow Tit.

Few other records were received but 11 at Kirkburn on 18th August; six at Wilsic in December and one to four occasionally at Primrose Valley, Hunmanby.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

The only confirmed breeding in VC 61 occurred at Tophill Low Res. where two pairs were present. Possibly bred at Skipwith and Allerthorpe Commons. No reported breeding in VC 62 whilst in VC 63; about 13 pairs bred in the Doncaster and 15 in the Barnsley areas but absent from other localities where normally present. Continues to decline in VC 64 with records from only 22 locations in the Leeds area and from only six in the Harrogate area. Bred at nine locations possibly 11. Very scarce in VC 65 with records from only three locations but probably under recorded.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Reported breeding in VC 61 at Flamborough; Tophill Low Res. and Escrick; in VC 62, four pairs at Ampleforth whilst no reports furnished for VCs 63; 64 or 65. Numbers in VC 61 small excepting in the York area where 21 were on Skipwith Common on 14th December. Occasionally reported from Sunk Island where usually very scarce. In VC 63, no significant records but flocks of 30 in Haw Park on 16th November and 22 at Sandall Beat on 13th December. Lack of large post breeding flocks in VC 64 may have been an indication of a poorer than normal success rate though 40 were at Timble Ings on 8th December.

A bird of the nominate race *P.a.ater* was at Flamborough on 27th October.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

No change in status or distribution reported but breeding success considered to have been poor in VC 64 (347 young from 57 boxes at Eccup). 150+ at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 9th October indicated an influx which was not noted elsewhere though 20 were at Spurn on both 4th and 13th; 70 on 20th November being the maximum recorded at Flamborough. No very large flocks reported though 100 at Wheldrake on 6th October and a total of 213 counted in Woolley Woods on 4th December.

Great Tit *Parus major*

No significant change in status but a slight increase at Tophill Low Res. Most locations indicated a poor breeding season though 80 at High Batts N.R. on 28th July suggested a successful one in that area. 25+ on Castle Hill, Scarborough, on 9th October indicated a small influx. No large flocks reported from any VC but a total of 196 were counted in Woolley Woods on 4th December.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

No definite breeding records from VC 61. One at Atwick (second consecutive year) on 13th October. Bred in VC 62 at several locations along the southwestern edge of the North York Moors whilst one was singing in Falsgrave Park, Scarborough; a new and interesting location, on 8th April. The breeding population of VC 63 continues to increase and expand; 21 pairs recorded in the Doncaster area (16 last year) with at least nine in the Huddersfield Barnsley areas as well as birds at other suitable locations. The spread in VC 64 appears to have halted with no new locations reported but consolidation was apparent in some already occupied areas. Remains common, if localised, in VC 65; the highest density being in the Richmond area.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

No change in status reported. Greatly under recorded in VC 61 with the only reported breeding occurring at Flamborough. Small influx along the coast with six at Flamborough on 24th November; four occasionally at Filey and singles at Spurn on three days in autumn.

A bird of the nominate race *C.f.familiaris*. was present at Flamborough on 28th October.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A female at Sunk Island on 11th May was seen to depart to the northwest (JW). A first summer male singing at Malham Tarn on 27th May (BS) whilst a male was in song in Church

Ravine, Filey on 4th July (PJD). An immature bird in Kilnsea Churchyard on 10th October was seen further south on Spurn peninsula the following day.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

One, trapped, at Easington on 26th October (MC:IC:JH:BRS *et al*) was released at Spurn Bird Observatory, remaining there until 2nd November. The fourth record for Yorkshire.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A male at Easington on 1st and 9th June with one at Flamborough from 7th to 9th. A female at the latter on 6th/7th July with a male at Burton Riggs G.P. on the 18th. One at Spurn on 10th/11th August then two juveniles at Flamborough on 30th; one remaining to 9th September. An adult female at Castle Hill, Scarborough, on 3rd/4th September; immature at Bempton from 3rd to 5th; one at Spurn from 26th September to 5th October and finally, a male at Filey on 26th October.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

In VC 61, reported from Spurn/Kilnsea between 25th and 27th October with a second bird present from the 26th to 29th. At Flamborough; one on 28th April; 29th/30th August; 11th October with two on the 12th, one remaining to the 14th and another on 20th. The only record from VC 62 was of one at Castle Howard on 20th April. A single record from VC 63; at Redmires on 11th October whilst in VC 64, one at Brimham Rocks on 26th/27th April, was the only record in that VC. Single birds in VC 65, at Richmond on 24th March and 24th April with one at Forcett Park on 23rd November.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

An adult male at Castle Hill, Scarborough, on 22nd/23rd June (RC *et al*).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Would appear to be no change in status. Bred in VC 61 at Laytham and recorded during all months, though not reported breeding, at Escrick; Skipwith; Allerthorpe and Wheldrake. Occasionally reported at Tophill Low Res. with one at Flamborough on 22nd November. Largest parties reported were in VC 63 with 26 in Woolley Woods on 23rd November; 20 at Thorpe Marsh on 28th March and 23rd September and 19 at Edderthorpe on 22nd December whilst, in VC 64, 20+ were at Lindley Wood Res. on 9th October.

Magpie *Pica pica*

No change in status reported. Roosts reported in VC 63 contained 124 at Shaw Wood, Huddersfield, on 9th January; Catcliffe, 117 on 11th January whilst up to 200 were at Potteric Carr at both ends of the year. Several other roosts of between 40 and 86 (Carlton Marsh) but loose gatherings of 100 occasionally at Broomhill in January; 98 at Tinsley, also in January; whilst a total of 201 were in Woolley Woods on 4th December.

135 at Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds, on 17th February being the largest gathering in VC 64 though several of 40 to 60 were reported. 65 at Clifton Airfield on 8th March being the highest count in VC 62 whilst 30 at Flamborough on 6th January and 32 at Filey on 26th September were maxima from VC 61.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

No changes in status reported. Many flocks recorded with the largest being 1000 at Tophill Low Res. on 10th February and 1000 to 2000 in that same vicinity during November/December; 1500 to 2000 near Otley in September/October whilst 2500 were at Scorton Quarry on 10th July.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

No apparent change in status although few large gatherings reported, the largest being; up to 2000 at Tophill Low Res. during November/December with 1000 at both Elvington and Holtby occasionally. Many gatherings of up to 750 reported.

Carrión Crow *Corvus corone*

An increase in parts of the Leeds area otherwise no comments on status received. 200 at Flamborough on 26th/27th October whilst at Sunk Island, 140 on 23rd September with 190 to the east on 2nd November and 180 on 9th. 81 at Tophill Low Res. on 1st October. Some southerly movement reported from Spurn with 19 on 30th March and 29 on 6th October. No significant flocks in VC 62 but in VC 63, 300 at Beeston Royds during December with 180 roosting on Thorne Moors on 7th November and 120 at Denholme in March. Several other locations reported flocks of 40 to 60 but 70 at Sykeholme Bridge near Doncaster on 6th December. In VC 64, 178 at Swillington Ings on 1st January with 100+ frequently reported during that month and early February.

Individuals of the race *C.c.cornix* (Hooded Crow) continue to be scarce. Single birds only reported in VC 61, from Spurn, on six occasions; Flamborough on five days in March; Filey on six occasions (one being in June but no date given) and once at Sunk Island. Only one record from VC 62, a single bird flying north at Scarborough on 24th June (the Filey bird?). Two singles only in VC 63; at Low Moor Tip, being the bird first reported on 1st December 1990 remaining until 16th January and near Pugney's C.P. on 11th April. Single birds in VC 64, in the Swillington/Newsam Green Tip/Leventhorpe Ash Ponds area on 1st January; 16th February; 24th March and 25th April whilst two were at Gouthwaite Res. from 7th to 15th December.

Raven *Corvus corax*

A good year in VC 65. One pair nested in close proximity to a pair of Peregrines but abandoned before hatching. Probable breeding occurred at a second location. Other records in this VC were; two over Skipton-on-Swale on 28th April; two at Windegg View on 22nd May; two at Gunnerside Ghyll on 8th June; two at Keld on 29th June; six over Great Pinseat on 8th December and three south at Arkengarthdale on 12th.

In VC 64; singles at Malham tarn on 1st March; 12th and 22nd October with two on 23rd November; two over Angram on 19th May and six on Low West Moor, Middlemoor, on 3rd September.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Numbers reported from rural and suburban areas of both Leeds and Harrogate have declined over the past ten years. This trend is echoed in other areas. The largest gatherings reported were 15,000 at Thornwick (Flamborough) in November; 15,000 at Scorton in late September and 12,000 at Blacktoft Sands in early July. No counts of town centre roosts made. 1600 juveniles at Pulfen Bog in mid June would indicate a successful breeding season.

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cinereus*

Addition to the 1990 Report: The bird at Flamborough from 17th to 19th May was accepted by the BOU Records Committee but not added to the British List as it is not a long-distance migrant and is quite common in captivity. The bird showed some feather damage which might support the possibility of captive origin.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

A juvenile at Kilnsea/Spurn on 27th October (MC *et al*). A male at Grassington from 14th to 20th July (KD) is still under consideration by the BBRC.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Many areas commented on the decline of this species and the lack of the large flocks of former years. 700 at Thrybergh C.P. on 24th August and 500 at Filey during September being the largest gatherings reported.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Has declined in the Bradford; Halifax and Huddersfield areas and in parts of the Sheffield area. No comments were received suggesting any change elsewhere. Few large parties were reported with up to 120 at Mickletown Ings in January; 125 at Flamborough on 16th January; 115 there on 16th March with 110 on 14th October. 100 were at Filey in December whilst up to

200 at Spurn from late August to early October. Flocks of 50 to 80 occasionally at a further nine locations.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

No comments were received concerning status thus assumed to be unchanged. A "modest" flock at Bretton Park during January increased during severe weather to peak at c1000 on 6th February. Other large gatherings reported were 350 at Leighton Res. on 17th March; 300 at Roundhill Res. on 24th November; 300+ at Esholt S.W. on 3rd February; 300 at Studley Royal on 20th March with 150 to 200 occasionally at High Batts N.R.; Flamborough; Riccall; Hardisty Hill; Ripon; Timble Ings and Wilsic. 80 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 9th October indicated an influx although this was not reflected elsewhere. No coastal passage recorded though inland 510 moved southwesterly over Strines Top in one hour on 6th October with 700 west there in two hours on 6th November and 230 west on 10th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Quite widespread during the early months though usually in small parties; the exception being, c100 in Peasholme Park, Scarborough, on 10th February with several flocks of 40 to 50 in other areas of the town. In VC 65, 250 near Feldom whilst in VC 61, 150 were in the vicinity of Bielby, during the early months. Parties of 50 to 80 were occasionally reported from Deer Hill; Digley; Meltham and Bretton but larger flocks were noted in spring with 300+ near Strines from 28th to 30th March with 200 to 300 at Wigtwizzle on 9th April (including males in song). 150 at Hardisty Hill, VC 64, on 23rd March. Many lingered on to late April with the last being recorded at Spurn on 2nd May.

The first returning birds were 'a pair' in Wydale Wood on 29th August (RNH) then at Spurn on 26th September; Sunk Island on 27th; Atwick and Filey on 28th then at Redmires on 29th. An influx occurred along the coast between 10th and 20th October with, on the 10th, 90 at Spurn and 50 at Flamborough; 100 at Scarborough on 11th/13th with 160 at Filey; 280 at Flamborough and 65 at Atwick, on the 12th. Most had moved on by the 20th after which few were along the coast. 250 at Hawaby from 1st to 3rd December otherwise flocks inland, although widespread, were of between ten and 30 but 43 at Wilsic on 12th December and 50 in a Barnsley garden on 27th October. 110 flew southwesterly over Strines Top on 6th and 8th November.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Status apparently unchanged. Spring passage peaked at Flamborough with 65 on 18th May and in autumn, 75 on 15th October whilst Spurn had no more than 20 in spring but a peak of 400 on 15th October. The only gathering of any size in VC 61 was at Tophill Low Res. with 120 on 4th September increasing to 400+ by 22nd then decreasing to 270 on 4th October and to 60 by the 20th. 200 at Broomhill Ings, VC 63, in late September with 230 there in December; 150 at Woodkirk (Leeds) on 29th January and 120 at Southfield Res. on 10th October. In VC 64, 400 at High Batts N.R. on 24th November with 130 at Mickleton Ings on 29th August. 300 at Kirkby Fleetham, VC 65, on 3rd February being the only gathering of note in this VC.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

No comments received on status which is assumed to be unchanged. Few flocks of any size reported during the early months; the largest being 35 at Fulford on 18th January. Spring passage peaked at Spurn in early May with 160 on 9th whilst Flamborough reported 30 on 11th. Autumn passage at Spurn saw 100 on 4th October with 121 on the 5th and a total of 700 birds between 15th and 17th. 70 flew southwesterly over Strines Top on 4th October whilst 50 were reported from Long Nab, VC 62, on 6th and 55 at Filey that same day. 50 flew east along the Humber at Sunk Island on the 4th.

The largest flocks reported were 210 at Broomhill Ings in October; 150 at Edderthorpe on 18th November with a similar count at Tophill Low Res. on 8th September and at Flamborough on 30th August. Up to 120 were present in West Park, Leeds, during October whilst parties of 50 to 100 were occasionally reported from Gouthwaite; Lofthouse Moor; Poppleton; Thorpe Marsh and Blacktoft Sands.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Comments on breeding status a little sketchy. In VC 63, no real estimate of breeding numbers though accepted that 'many bred west of Sheffield' and 'some in the Barnsley/Huddersfield area but as yet, no further north'. No confirmed breeding reported from VC 64 but quite probably did so in both the Leeds and Harrogate areas. No reports from either VC 65 or VC 62 whilst in VC 61, may have bred at Tophill Low Res. where a family party was present from 23rd June to 19th July. 'Nested in evergreen in a large garden at Fulford; three young fledged' (York Orn. Report).

Good numbers at many locations during the early months with, in VC 62, up to 80 at Hawby to mid February then increasing to 150 by the end of that month and up to 200 by the end of March. 200 at Askham Bog on during February. In VC 63, 150 at Rivelin on 2nd January; 150 at Whirlow Park during February/March whilst 'hundreds overhead' at Strines on 23rd March. Over 300 in the Limb valley on 24th March and 'several hundreds' (with many singing males) at Wigtwizzle on 9th April. 70 at Worsbrough on 2nd February with a similar count at Broomhead on 18th and 30 to 50 at a further five locations during January/March.

Flocks of up to 50 quite widespread in VC 64 in these early months with 100 in Dob Park on 20th January and at Swinsty Moor Plantation in March.

Spring passage at Spurn moderate with maximum of 77 on 12th April. Autumn passage likewise with a peak of 143 on 2nd November whilst during this period Flamborough had 30 on 2nd October with 90 on 14th. Many flocks, in the York area, of 40 to 80 but few further east; 50 to 60 at Tophill Low Res. in early December being the exception. Smaller numbers in VC 62 during the latter months than the earlier period with a similar situation in VC 63 where 100+ at Cragg Vale on 27th September; 245 southwest at Strines in 1¼ hours on 19th and 100 west at Redmires on 7th were the maxima. Many flocks in VC 64 during September of up to 40 with larger parties of 100 flying south over Roundhay Park (Leeds) on 13th September and 70 at Gouthwaite on 22nd. 100 were at Ripon on 3rd December and 200 at Spofforth on the 13th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

No comments received concerning breeding status. Scarce in VC 61 during the early months with 50 at Sunk Island on 16th February the largest gathering reported. Not reported from Spurn until 10th February when 100 flew south; spring passage there being light with 550 south in eight days in April and 365 on five in May. 2150 counted at Flamborough during April. More numerous in autumn with 300 at Spurn on 25th September and 885 on 14th October. 500 at Flamborough on 5th October. 245 east at Sunk Island on 25th September with 597 east on 12th October. 400 present at Tophill Low Res. during late August. Scarce again by November.

Only three flocks of note in VC 63 during the early months; 200 at Wilsic on 12th March with 100+ at both Candy Farm and Sprotbrough in January/February. More numerous from August onwards though less so again by November. 400 were present in the Torne valley (Doncaster area) in August with 200 there in October; 300 at Broomhill Ings on 20th July; 300 at Pugney's C.P. on 2nd October with 250 at Blacktoft Sands on 4th; 200 at Cudworth on 6th; 200 at Thrybergh C.P. during this month and 200 at Winterset on 18th August. 100 to 180 occasionally at Carlton Marsh; Ardsley Res. and Southfield Res. whilst southwesterly passage over Redmires in late September/early October was light.

The only high counts in the early months in VC 64 were 100 at High Batts N.R. on 6th January with 150 on 2nd February and 130 reported on 1st May. 60 at Roundhill Res. on 24th November, the highest count in the late months. The only flocks reported in VC 65 were from Nosterfield with 150 on 13th January and 160 on 13th April.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Moderate numbers breeding on the moorlands of VC 63, being quite widespread though no 'large' colonies. Only one breeding record from VC 64, near Malham Tarn, whilst no change in status in VC 65.

Lower numbers than in recent years at Flamborough with few in the early months. 12 at Barmston on 10th February; ten at Stone Creek on 24th March and five at Filey on 13th February being the only flocks reported. Slightly more numerous in the latter months; particularly in October, when Flamborough had a peak of 23 on 22nd; Spurn, 30 on 18th; Sunk Island, 16 west on the 20th; Barmston, 19 on 29th whilst the peak at Filey was ten on 17th November. 47 at

Staithes on 12th February, the only record from VC 62. Peak counts reported from VC 63 were 80 during March/April at Derby Delph; 80 at Deer Hill on 26th September; 100+ at Cragg Vale in late September and 100+ at Todmorden on 8th October.

A poor year in VC 64 with the only records in the early months being of a single bird at High Batts N.R. from 1st January to 1st April and one in a garden at Gledhow, Leeds, on 26th January. Maximum in Spring was eight over Fleet Plantations on 9th March. During the late months, 80 were at Darnbrook on 2nd September with 100 at Great Close on 11th and 200 at Malham Tarn on 25th.

37 at Cleasby, VC 65, on 2nd February, decreasing to 25 by the end of March with nine to 6th April. 25 flew over that locations on 6th October whilst 20 were at Calver Hill Moor on 11th September.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

No obvious change in status in VC 61 but considered to be some decline as a breeding bird in parts of the Sheffield and Huddersfield areas of VC 63 whilst, in VC 64, few records of breeding were reported with none whatsoever from the Harrogate area. No comments from either VC 62 or VC 65.

Numbers small in VC61; inland, ten at Skipwith Common, the maximum noted during the early months. Definitely bred at Tophill Low Res. and Wheldrake. Slightly larger numbers post breeding with 60 at Tophill Low Res. in October and 50 at Skipwith Common on 12th. Light coastal passage with 32 at Spurn on 10th September; 42 on 15th October whilst 45 were reported from Flamborough on 21st.

Flocks of 40 to 50 occasionally in VC 63 at Bessacarr; Rother Valley C.P.; Langsett; Winterset; Broomhill Ings and Carlton Marsh during the early months with larger parties of 120 at Redmires on 13th April; 70 at Whirlow Park on the same date and 70 at Winterset on the 8th. 90 southwest over Strines Top on 6th October with 40 at Edderthorpe on 20th November and 50 at Wadworth Wood on the 19th being the only records of note during the latter months.

In VC 64; the only parties reported in excess of 30 were of 100+ at Temple Newsam on 22nd October and 40 at Timble Ings during March.

Birds considered to be of the race *C.f. flammea* (Mealy Redpoll) were noted in VC 61, at Spurn on 23rd January; Tophill Low Res. where nine were present on 13th October whilst several in other flocks present to mid December were possibly of this race; one at Filey on 25th October with two or three occasionally at Flamborough early in that month. In the York area; one near Escrick on 13th February and three, perhaps four, at Allertorpe Common on 2nd March.

In VC 63; one at Potteric Carr on 12th February with two on 24th; two at Redmires on 13th April and one at Broomhill Ings in mid April. VC 64 reported one at Linton Bridge on 17th February whilst six at Ripon on 24th March were probably of this race.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Two at Thorpe Marsh on 6th March (AN:PSu) were not accepted by BBRC.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Widespread during the early months with many remaining from the 1990 influx. Many flocks of up to 70 were in the forests bordering the North York Moors with an estimated 300 at Silton during early April and 120 on Yearsley Moor on 25th February. A similar situation existed in the Sheffield/Barnsley areas of VC 63 with 90 at Redmires on 18th May. Smaller parties elsewhere in VC 63 though 40 were at Candy Farm on 2nd June. Parties of up to 30 at many locations in VC 64 with 32 at Bolton Bridge on 2nd February and 40 to 45 in the Swinsty Res/Timble area during March.

Considering the numbers present, definite breeding records were few; the majority being to the west of Sheffield where about 20 pairs bred in the Langsett/Broomhead area whilst similar numbers may have bred at other likely locations elsewhere in this vicinity. Two pairs bred on Feldom Ranges, VC 65, with probable breeding occurring on Witton Fell. Bred in Terrington Wood, VC 62, and doubtless did so at other locations in this VC.

Post breeding flocks were widespread though, in general, not as large as in the early months. 150 in two parties at Langdale/Brockley on 17th July with 44, all males, at Yearsley Forest on

1st August being the largest gatherings in VC 62. In VC 63, 60 flew north at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th November otherwise 12 at Armthorpe on 1st August was the maximum count in this VC. 30 at Winksley, VC 64, on 29th November though most parties in this VC were in the region of five to 15 but two parties in Roundhay Park, Leeds, on 15th July totalled 28.

In VC 61, regularly up to 24 at Tophill Low Res. during June with 35 on 7th July; 20 on 15th then nine in August with the last four on 8th September. 17 at Filey Dams on 10th November and 12 at Flamborough on 13th August. Regularly reported at Spurn in early July with maximum of 37 to the south on 13th; nine also south there on 11th August.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

The party of birds, varying between 12 and 15, consisting of five males and ten females/immature males, first reported on 27th December 1990 at Winksley, remained until 13th January (PVI:MGM:PSW *et al.*).

Four, in company with a party of Crossbills, at Over Silton on 13th April (JCL:LC) are still under consideration by BBRC.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A remarkable year at Flamborough with a female on 16th June followed on 1st July by two singing males, with one present to the 6th, being joined by a female. The pair remained throughout July with breeding suspected. This pair was joined by another male which sang on 20th and 21st whilst the pair were last seen on 31st. Singles also here on 2nd September and 20th October (PAL *et al.*). One at Haverfield Quarries on 3rd June (RL:PS). Two or three individuals at Spurn in September; on the 1st; 11th; 12th and 16th with possibly a third on the 15th. One at Castle Hill, Scarborough, on 5th October (RC:TME) whilst inland; a female/immature male was at High Batts N.R. on 5th October (SPW *et al.*) and one at a garden feeder in Harrogate on 19th October (AM).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

No apparent change in status. Generally, however, the size of flocks was small with, in VC 61, 12 at Flamborough on 5th October and 11+ at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd being the only records in excess of the eight at Skipwith Common on 14th February. Three parties, totalling 32 birds, were at Fulford Ings, VC 62, in early September (no date) whilst, in VC 63, 25 were at Lower Bradfield on 11th January; 18 at Royd Moor Res. on 9th December and 11 each at Tickhill on 13th August and Carlton Marsh on 31st. 12 at Laver Banks, VC 64, on 6th January being the only party in excess of six in that VC.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Remains scarce in VC 61 with no records this year from Escrick Park, the only breeding locality in 1990. Eight in the Humber Bridge C.P. on 3rd March (GED) with birds reported there on a further eight occasions. One flew south at Spurn on 23rd October whilst one at Tophill Low Res. on 8th August was the first record for that location. One at Stamford Bridge on 9th February. The only record from VC 62 was of a single bird at Castle Howard on 8th December.

In VC 63, bred at Rockley/Stainbrough and at Sprotbrough with suspected breeding at Wilsic. At Rockley/Stainbrough the maxima reported were; ten in January; 19 in February and 11 in March. Ten in Woolley Woods on 30th June with 15 there on 14th December; seven at Rossington on 22nd February; 11 on 1st December whilst five were at Sprotbrough on 16th March. One to three at three locations in the Doncaster area and at two in the Huddersfield area.

A poor year in VC 64. Whilst the Studley/Fountains Abbey area remains the stronghold, the only count received was of 26 on 2nd February. Not reported from Whinmoor (Leeds) whilst the only other records concerned singles at Roundhay Park (Leeds), on 12th July; Staveley on 3rd August; Goldsborough Wood on 7th September and one, long dead, at Middleton Woods (Ilkley), on 17th September.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Small numbers along the coast during the early months; the only gathering being at Filey

where 27 were present on 9th January decreasing to ten by the 16th during hard weather. Eight flew south at Spurn on 19th January with six, also south, there on 23rd. One to three occasionally at ten coastal locations in VC 61 and at three in VC 62.

More widespread during the latter months after the first at Flamborough on 15th September. Passage there in October totalled 130 birds with 13 to 18 on five dates and 31 on the 25th; ten there on 3rd November and 14 on the 5th. One to three at Filey, Spurn, Barmston and Sunk Island during this period though four at Barmston from 14th November to years' end. In VC 62, 14 at Staithes on 14th December with five at Burniston on 6th November and 15th December. Single birds occasionally reported from Scalby Mills and Scarborough.

Inland, singles were recorded at Pulfin Bog on 27th October; Heslington on 11th December; Midgley Moor on 9th November and to the west over Oxstones on 22nd and 23rd October.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Slightly more during the early months than recently with 50 to 60 at Spurn occasionally in January with 90 on the 7th; these no doubt being the flock that frequented the Beacon Lane area of Kilnsea. In February, 50 at Spurn on 17th being the only flock reported there during that month, whilst the Beacon Lane flock decreased to 59 on 17th after which 19 at Spurn on 28th and 23 on 2nd March. Elsewhere along the coast, in VC 61, 50 at Barmston on 5th January; 32 at Flamborough on 12th with 40 at Filey during that month. Up to 16 at Filey during February with six in March. The last reported being at Barmston on 29th. In VC 62, 80 near Whitby on 12th February otherwise one to three occasionally at four locations.

The first reported during the latter months was at Spurn in mid October with up to ten there that month being the maximum for these latter months. At Flamborough the peak was 18 on 9th November whilst at Barmston, 41 came in off the sea on 5th November with 25 similarly on the 8th; 60 on 20th being the highest count at that locations whilst up to 40 were at Filey during November and 127 in December (no date). 25 to 30 at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough, on 10th November.

Inland, in VC 61, four or five east over Tophill Low Res. on 24th November; eight at Hull Docks on 17th and 23rd February with one at Pulfin Bog on 1st December. One at Staintondale, VC 62, on 19th April with two at Heslington on 11th December.

In VC 63, ten west at Crosland Heath (Huddersfield) with 14 west over Burbage Moor, on 8th December. Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 13th and at Scammonden on 28th February whilst in November, at Winterset on 2nd and 9th; Blacktoft Sands on 6th and Warley Moor on 9th. One over Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd November was the only record for VC 65.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

No changes in status reported. Monthly maxima in VC 61 were 120 at Filey in January with 85 in October; 40 to 60 at Tophill Low Res. in January and March with 50 in December. 53 at Sunk Island on 5th January; 50 at Flamborough on 7th April whilst at Wheldrake on 6th February birds arrived with the onset of a heavy snow shower to give a total of c300.

Up to 50 at seven locations in VC 63 during the early months with larger gatherings of 120 feeding on grain at Broomhill Ings during the cold spell on February and 150 at Edderthorpe on 20th January. In the latter months; 160 at Wilsic on 19th November; 120 at Winterset on 1st December; 120 in the Loxley valley on the 8th and 70 at Edderthorpe on 6th. 50 at Worsbrough on both the 20th October and 6th December. No large parties were reported from VC 64 though flocks of up to 50 were widely scattered throughout many lowland area during both winter periods. The only large gathering reported from VC 65 was of 140 at Nosterfield on 13th January.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Singles at Flamborough on 1st and 4th September; 12th/13th October (PAL *et al*); Whitestone Point on 27th October and two at Kilnsea/Spurn on the 13th.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

Two immatures at Holmpton from 12th to 16th October (NAB:MC *et al*) whilst an adult was at Easington from 29th October to 4th November (AJB:JMcL *et al*) The Holmpton birds are still under consideration by BBRC.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

One, ringed, at Filey, remained in the area from 29th September to 2nd October (TLH *et al.*). Another present there on 12th/13th October (SC:DJS:PMS:HJW). One at Flamborough on 1st October (RB:NC:JCL).

Addition to the 1990 Report: One at Flamborough on 21st October (MN) is considered to be the bird previously recorded on the 18th.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Comments on status varied; 'lower than usual number' at Tophill Low Res.; 'continued decline', Sheffield area; 'some decline', Huddersfield area; 'good numbers at some sites' Barnsley. All other areas reported either no change or did not comment.

Peak counts at Tophill Low Res. were 14 on 11th October and 13 on 4th June. 35 at Flamborough on 26th January with 30 on 12th October; 25 at Sunk Island also on 12th October whilst 17 at Pulfin Bog on 27th October at which locations at least 16 singing males were present in summer. Up to 30 regularly at Spurn during the winter months with 55 on 9th February.

In VC 63, some 95 pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands; 23 pairs at Winterset; 15 at Broomhill; 12 at Ingbirchworth; ten at Carlton Marsh; eight at Edderthorpe and six at Worsbrough. 70 birds present at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd January had decreased to 45 in February whilst 120 were reported there on both 24th October and 3rd November; 25 at Potteric Carr in February. 20 pairs bred at Mickletown Ings, VC 64, with eight pairs at Swillington Ings. Numbers during the hard weather of February were higher than usual with 20 at High Batts N.R. on 10th; 20 at Hay-a-Park on 25th and 15 at Farnham G.P. on 12th.

The incidence of birds frequenting oil-seed rape fields continues to increase, particularly in the eastern areas of VC 61 and VC 62.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Decreasing in VC 61 particularly in the eastern half. Scarcer in the Doncaster area and continues to decline in the Huddersfield area where now very scarce. Gradual decline in VC 64 continues but apparently has slowed down in some areas to the north and east of Leeds.

Generally, flocks in VC 61, numbered below 30 but in the Filey area 70 were present on 11th January with 65 near Muston Grange on 1st December. 65 at Flamborough on 10th November and 50 at Cowden on 1st December; these being by far the largest gatherings reported from the east of VC 61. Small parties in the York area with 23 at Riccall on 31st May; larger gatherings in the latter months with 50 at East Cottingwith on 11th November increasing to peak at 70 in December. 40 were at Murton also in December.

Large parties were at Edderthorpe, in VC 63, where peak counts were 200 on 30th January and 180 on 10th December; other large gatherings reported were; 60 at Broomhill Ings on 16th February; 50 at Hardwick on 15th February and 50 at Carlton Marsh on 30th April. No large flocks were reported from VC 64 with 33 at Hutton Conyers on 3rd December and 18 at Mickletown Ings on 28th being the maxima. Peak counts from VC 65 were 46 at Nosterfield on 2nd February with 30 at Bolton-on-Swale on 14th.

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

A first winter male at Bridlington from 5th to 7th November (TDC *et al.*) constitutes the first record for Yorkshire. Still under consideration by BBRC.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Addition to the 1989 Report: The bird present at Flamborough from 23rd to 25th May has been reconsidered by the BBRC and is considered to relate to an escaped cage bird owing to the fact that the bird showed signs of abnormal moult.

The following is an update of species for which BBRC require details and which, at the time of publication of the relevant reports, the results of their deliberations were not known. This list concerns records of species reported in the county since the last update in 1984 together with some older, outstanding, records. All concern single birds except where indicated.

The following have been accepted:

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

Bridlington 11 December 1983

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

Flamborough 19 September 1987

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Potteric Carr 19 May 1985

Sprotbrough 25 May 1989

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

East Park Lake, Hull 17 March 1984 and again on the 21st.

Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis* ("Green-winged" Teal)

Wheldrake Ings 1 to 4 November 1981

Tophill Low Res. 2 May 1982

Tophill Low Res. 2 November 1982 and probably same bird on 11 November 1982

Wheldrake Ings 1 November 1982 and probably the same bird on 7 and 8 November 1982

Long Preston 8 to 9 March 1983

Blacktoft Sands 23 to 24 June 1983

Fairburn Ings 27 October 1983

Wheldrake Ings 17 December 1983

Long Preston 4 to 8 March 1984

Fairburn Ings 16 February 1985

Tophill Low Res. 26 to 27 December 1985

Swinemoor (Beverley) 11 to 13 March 1986

Thorpe Marsh 11 March 1987

Fairburn Ings 30 March to 8 May 1990

Blacktoft Sands 2 to 10 July 1990

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

Thorpe Marsh 16 November 1988

Bolton-on-Swale 29 September to 5 October 1988

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Gallaber 20 April 1986 and again on 24th

Allerton Bywater 11 to 31 August 1986

Fairburn Ings 13 September 1986

Catcliffe Flash/Harthill } 7 June 1987 then discontinuously at all three locations
Res./Rother Valley C.P. } until 29 September 1988

Swillington Ings 27 May to 19 June 1989

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

Barmston 18 January 1990

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Swillington Ings 2 May 1989

- Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*
Atwick 14 June 1983
- Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*
Flamborough 2 May 1987
- Crane** *Grus grus*
Blacktoft Sands 10 May 1985
Eske (Beverley) 17 May 1985
Cawthorne 16 to 17 June 1987
- American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*
Spurn Bird Observatory 20 May 1988 and again on 26 May
- Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*
Blacktoft Sands 22 to 27 July 1986
- White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*
Blacktoft Sands 9 to 14 August 1989
- Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*
Saltend (Hull) Two birds on 22 May 1985 remaining to 29 May with a third present on 27th
- Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia*
Elland G.P. 31 May to 25 June 1990
- Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*
Hull Docks 14 December 1983
- Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea*
Scarborough 11 February 1983 (previously rejected)
Flamborough 10 August 1987
Flamborough 30 September 1987
Flamborough 30 October 1988
- Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*
Ardsley Res. 23 May 1989
Flamborough 6 May 1990
- White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Flamborough 11 September 1988
- Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*
Flamborough 24 May 1987
- Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
Bempton 10 June 1988
- Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Flamborough 25 June 1987
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
Flamborough 15 April 1989
Hornsea Mere 5 May 1990 (considered to be the same bird at Spurn on same date)

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Flamborough	19 October 1990
Flamborough	24 to 25 October 1990

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata maura/stejnegeri* ("Siberian Stonechat")

Spurn Bird Observatory	25 October 1980
Spurn Bird Observatory	2 November 1980
Flamborough	21 to 31 October 1981
Spurn Bird Observatory	8 November 1984 to 3 January 1985
Spurn Bird Observatory	5 to 10 May 1985
Filey	18 to 21 October 1985
Spurn Bird Observatory	22 October 1985
Paull	5 October 1986
Flamborough	29 September to 2 October 1987
Staveley	4 to 11 October 1987
Flamborough	15 to 16 October 1987
Flamborough	21 April 1990
Flamborough	7 May 1990
Flamborough	20 October 1990
Flamborough	26 to 29 October 1990

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Flamborough	16 May 1990
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Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Bempton	26 to 28 August 1987
Filey	25 to 29 August 1990

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Flamborough	21 October 1987
Flamborough	22 October 1987 (two birds)
Flamborough	29 October 1987
Flamborough **	8 to 9 October 1989
Flamborough **	10 to 11 October 1989 (two birds)
Flamborough **	12 October 1989 (three birds)
Flamborough **	13 October 1989 (two birds)
Flamborough **	14 October 1989
	** considered to be a total of three birds only.
Grimston	18 October 1990
Spurn Bird Observatory	21 October 1990

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Flamborough	30 September 1987
Flamborough	16 October 1988
Flamborough	17 October 1988
Flamborough	13 October 1990
Flamborough	21 October 1990
Flamborough	27 October 1990

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Flamborough	3 November 1987
Flamborough	25 October 1988
Flamborough	21 October 1990
Blacktoft Sands	10 to 11 November 1990

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Filey	13 September 1989
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Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

Blacktoft Sands	11 and 12 November 1988 (two birds; male plus female)
Blacktoft Sands	17 to 30 March 1989

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Spurn Bird Observatory	7 November 1984
Spurn Bird Observatory	14 January 1985 and again on 17th
Almsford Bank (Harrogate)	23 March 1985
Saltend (Hull)	25 November 1985
Filey	19 to 20 October 1990

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*

Hollingdale Plantation (Sheffield)	30 October 1982
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Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

Flamborough	20 May 1987	(female)
Flamborough	23 May 1987	(female – different)
Flamborough	24 May 1987	(male)

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Spurn Bird Observatory	15 October 1986
Flamborough	25 May 1987
Flamborough	3 October 1987
Flamborough	18 September 1989
Flamborough	18 October 1990

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

Flamborough	30 August 1987
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The following have been rejected:

White-billed Diver *Cavia adamsii*

Flamborough	9 April 1988
Flamborough	19 November 1988

Albatross sp. *Diomedea sp*

Spurn Bird Observatory	13 October 1985
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Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

Flamborough	9 August 1988
Cowden	8 September 1988
Hornsea	2 November 1988

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

Spurn Bird Observatory	9 September 1989
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Crane *Grus grus*

Flamborough	10 June 1987
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Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Bridlington	7 August 1988
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American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Swinefleet	18 April 1990
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- Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Hull Docks 9 August 1986
- Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*
Flamborough 14 May 1990
- White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Spurn Bird Observatory 9 September 1988
- Mottled Swift** *Apus aequatorialis*
Spurn Bird Observatory 23 October 1988 and again between 25th and 27th
- Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Easington 29 May 1983
- Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*
Bolton-on-Swale 24 April 1978
- Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica magna*
Flamborough 4 April 1987
- Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata mauraistejnegeri* ("Siberian Stonechat")
Flamborough 16 October 1988
- Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*
Barmston 20 October 1988
- Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*
Flamborough 16 to 17 September 1987
- Red-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis*
Easington 7 October 1990
- Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata*
Mappleton 15 September 1989
- Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*
Kilnsea 5 November 1988
- Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*
Crowle Moors 27 August 1976
- Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Spurn Bird Observatory 26 August 1986 (second bird – sight record)
- Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*
Bishop Monkton 31 October to 1 November 1989
- Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni*
Grimston 8 to 9 December 1990
- Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*
Bempton 17 April 1983

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate, forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books, the locality date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver	Long-tailed Skua
Black-throated Diver	Mediterranean Gull
Slavonian Grebe	Ring-billed Gull
Black-necked Grebe	Iceland Gull
Cory's Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Storm Petrel	Black Guillemot
Leach's Petrel	Bee-eater
Little Egret	Woodlark
Purple Heron	Richard's Pipit
White Stork	Tayny Pipit
Bean Goose	Bluethroat
Red-crested Pochard	Cetti's Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Savi's Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Aquatic Warbler
Red Kite	Marsh Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Icterine Warbler
Goshawk	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Barred Warbler
Golden Eagle	Pallas's Warbler
Hobby	Yellow-browed Warbler
Spotted Crake	Firecrest
Crane	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Stone Curlew	Golden Oriole
Kentish Plover	Woodchat Shrike
Temminck's Stint	Chough
Pectoral Sandpiper	Raven
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Serín
Red-necked Phalarope	Scarlet Rosefinch
Grey Phalarope	Cirl Bunting
Pomarine Skua	Ortolan Bunting

British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1988) Number 9 pages xv and xvi.

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1991 have been received and those readers requiring more information on the areas concerned should consult the relevant report.

Barnsley Area Bird Report (Barnsley and District Bird Study Group)
 Birds in Huddersfield (Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club)
 Birds in Sheffield (Sheffield Bird Study Group)
 Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve Report
 Bradford Naturalists' Society
 Bradford Ornithological Group
 Castleford and District Naturalists' Society
 Doncaster Bird Report (Doncaster and District Ornithological Society)
 Filey Brigg Bird Report (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)
 Halifax Birdwatchers' Club
 Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society
 Leeds Birdwatchers' Club
 The Natural History of Calderdale (Halifax Scientific Society)
 South Holderness Countryside Society (Newletters)
 Sorby Natural History Society (Newsletters)
 Tophill Low Pumping Station Bird Report (Tophill Low Wildlife Group)
 Upper Wharfedale Field Society
 Wharfedale Naturalists' Society
 York Bird Report (York Ornithological Club)

Reports/lists were also received from individuals or groups for their particular area being as follows: Barmston; Broomhill Ings; Birds of the Estuary Enquiry; Beacon Lane Lagoons (Kilnsea); Bolton-on-Swale; Holderness Log; Humber Wildfowl Refuge; Flamborough Ornithological Group; Malham Tarn; Mickletown Ings; Pugney's C.P.; Puffin Bog; Newmillerdam; Selby and District; Southfield Res.; Sunk Island; Swillington Ings; Thorne Moors; Winterset.

The following is a list of observers who contributed to the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and the very many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated. R. Adams; N. W. Addey; D. P. Adkin; P. J. Aker; G. E. Alderson; A. M. Allport; D. Anderson; G. A. Andrassey; H. Appleby; A. Archer; P. A. Ardron; B. Armitage; J. S. Armitage; D. Atkinson; Miss J. E. Atkinson; D. C. Barker; R. Barnes; M. Barnett; P. Barraclough; J. M. Bayldon; D. Beaumont; P. R. Beaumont; D. E. Bedford; S. A. Beeby; M. Beevers; C. Bell; N. A. Bell; L. Bennett; J. Beveridge; C. Bielby; D. P. Binns; R. P. Blagdon; E. B. Blake; A. J. Booth; A. Botterill; C. Bower; D. J. Bowes; Mrs. D. M. Bowes; P. K. Bowman; P. Bradley; C. Braham; P. Bray; M. Brewer; R. Broughton; J. D. H. Brown; P. L. Brown; H. O. Bunce; H. P. R. Bray; A. S. Butler; C. Bygate; D. Bywater (DBY); T. Cantwell; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; G. M. Carr; D. Carroll; I. Carstairs; N. Carter; T. D. Charlton; P. W. G. Chilman; W. A. Clarke; J. C. Clarkson; K. Clarkson; E. W. Clubley; A. Clunas; S. Cochrane; K. Collett; T. Collins; D. Constantine; D. Cooper; J. M. Cooper; T. I. Corbett; D. W. Cottee; M. Coverdale; A. Credland; R. Crofton; H. Crooks; R. Crossley; I. Crowther; R. J. Croxton; J. Cudworth; M. Cunningham; W. F. Curtis; D. B. Cutts; R. A. Dalby; J. E. Dale; J. M. Dale; S. G. Davies; P. Daw; P. Dawson; N. C. Dawtrey; L. J. Degnan; A. Deighton; C. Dennison; R. Denny; S. Denny; M. L. Denton; A. B. Devitt; J. A. Dilley; I. H. Dillingham; T. E. Dixon; G. E. Dobbs; T. Dolan; N. Douglas; P. Dove; S. E. Driffeld; T. Duckworth; W. Dudhill; P. J. Dunn; K. A. Dutton; W. G. Dye; B. East; B. Eckersley; T. M. England; I. English; B. Eversham; R. Evison; S. Exley; C. Featherstone; T. Feltham; M. G. Fenner; E. A. Fisher; J. Flanagan; G. T. Foggitt; G. Follows; A. Ford; I. Forsyth; K. Foundation; M. Francis; J. Garbutt; J. M. Gardner; M. G. H. Garnett; Mrs. S. Gear; J. George; A. Gibson; L. Gillard; Mrs. D. Gilroy; I. Graves; J. H. Goddard; B. Good; K. Good; B. Goodacre; C. Gorman; A. G. Gough; K. R. Gould; Miss A. Gowland; P. Gray; P. K. Greaves; N. Gricks; A. Grieve; S. Green; D. Grist; G. L. Haigh; B. Haines; A. J. Hall; Miss M. C. Hall; R. E. Harbird; A. Hardaker; C. G. Harris; P. Harrison; J. Harwood; M. Hayes; K. J. Hayhow; S. J. Hayhow; G. Hayward;

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